CEBU ULANDAY

Terrorism, poverty are new foes—Gloria

STORY ON PAGE A2

SACRED ground in Mt. Samat, Bataan is marked by a cross where the earth is blessed by the blood of the brave.

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LET/A18

THIS IS THE LIFE

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'Money changed hands'

In a letter, Pierantoni confirms payment

By Hernan P. dela Cruz and Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Dona Pazzibugan, *in Manila*

TUNGAWAN, Zamboanga Sibugay—Money indeed changed hands for the release of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, military and police sources said, although Malacañang insisted that it did not allow ransom to be paid.

Pierantoni himself confirmed the payment. "I felt sad to hear that you (negotiators) paid the gang of 'Faizal' (Marohombsar)," he said in a letter dated March 16. Marohombsar is the alleged leader of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group based in Central Mindanao.

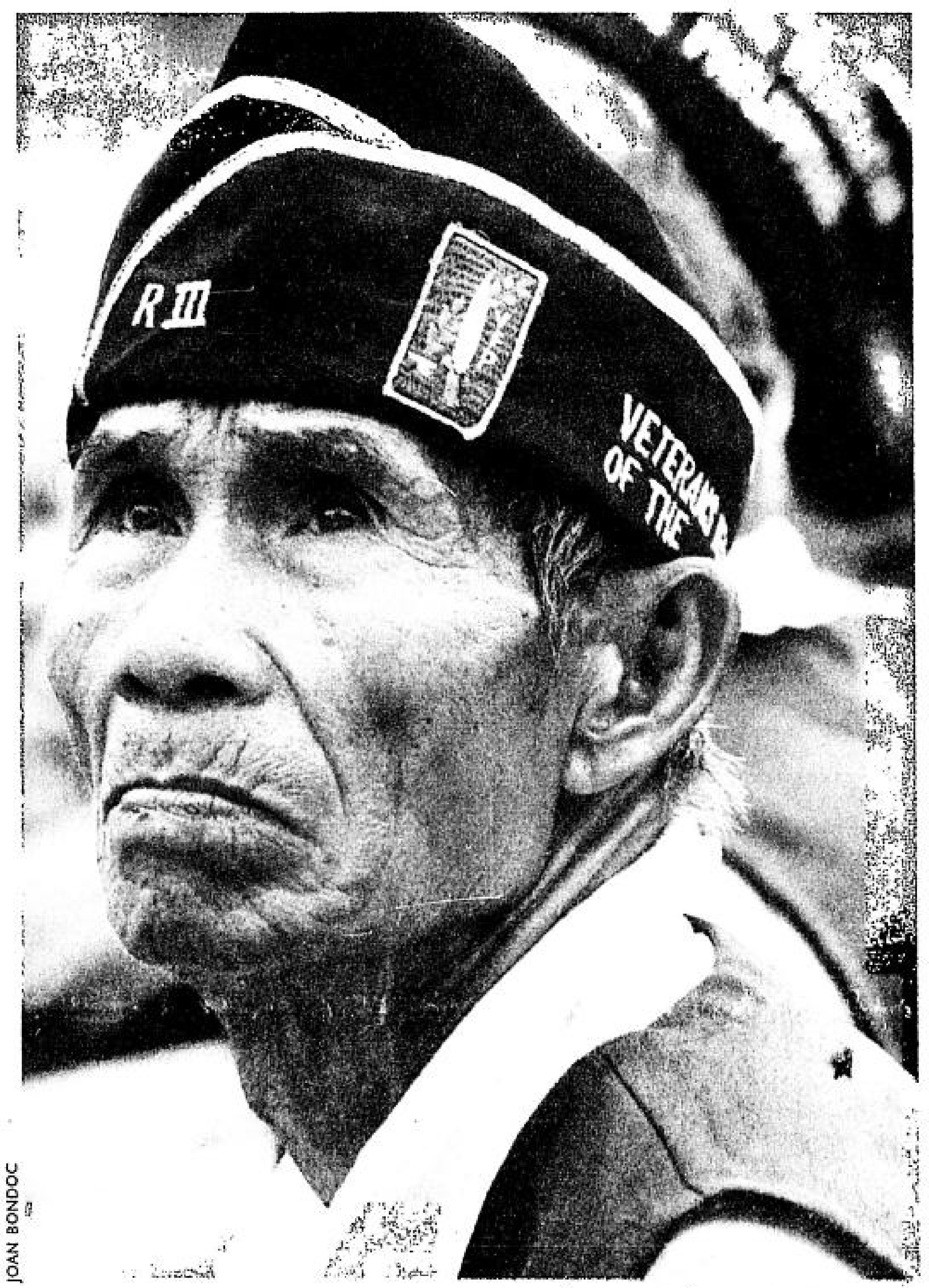
The letter was first received by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process and was forwarded to the Pagadian Diocese on April 6, or three days before Pierantoni's release.

Pierantoni said in the letter that his abductors were demanding $1 million and P500,000 in "board and lodging fee" in exchange for his freedom.

The alleged payment to Marohombsar was made in the first week of January somewhere in Cotabato City, according to the military source.

The negotiators, however, returned with

MONEY/A19


JOAN BONDOC

60 YEARS AGO... He was a very young man who fought with stunning courage for flag and country that England's wartime prime minister, Winston Churchill, was moved to say that the Filipino soldier was second to none. ***(Story on Page A2.)***

MIDEAST CRISIS

Pope: Holy Land violence 'intolerable'

By Armand Nocum

VIOLENCE in the Holy Land has reached "intolerable" levels, Pope John Paul II told visitors to the Vatican yesterday. The Vatican Embassy in Manila followed up the Pope's dramatic remarks by releasing a papal statement condemning terrorism—"whatever side it may come."

"The spiral of violence and armed hostility in the Holy Land—the land of our Lord's birth, death and resurrection, a land held sacred by the three great monotheistic religions—has increased to unimaginable and intolerable levels," the Pope told members of an American foundation visiting the Vatican.

The 81-year-old Pontiff, who visited the Holy Land in 2000, made no specific reference to the fighting at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, but Franciscans, whose brother monks are holed up in the church with some 200 Palestinian militants, welcomed the Pope's appeal.

"I hope the strong words from the Pope, who is known not to use words lightly, will finally move both sides to accept a solution now, before another di-

POPE/A18

Israel pulls back forces but US says 'not enough'

NABLUS, West Bank—Israel began pulling out soldiers and tanks from the cities of Qalqiliya and Tulkarem before dawn Tuesday, declaring victory in a crackdown on Palestinian militants there. But as the forces left Tulkarem and Qalqiliya, soldiers, tanks and helicopters invaded the small southern West Bank town of Dura, the military said. Witnesses in the town said they heard the sound of gun battles.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking in Morocco late Monday, described the pullout as "encouraging" but not enough.

"We hope that this is the start of the pullback. We'll just see what happens in the days ahead, but this is an encouraging sign," Powell told reporters after meeting Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdel Aziz at the start of a regional tour.

The White House echoed Powell's comments, expressing qualified approval of the Israeli withdrawal.

"It's a start. As (President George W. Bush) said last Thursday, all parties in the Middle East have responsibili-

ISRAEL/A18

Pagadian bishop: 'No encounter, no gunfight'

By Armand Nocum and the PDI Mindanao Bureau

"THERE was no encounter, no gunfight. He was brought out. A van came and picked him up and he was brought to Dipolog," Pagadian City Bishop Zacarias Jimenez said in an interview yesterday over Radio Mindanao Network.

The bishop supported the statement of Italian priest Giuseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni after his recovery last Monday that he was freed by his abductors and not rescued by police.

Jimenez said Pierantoni was released following negotiations with the abductors, but he ruled out reports that ransom was paid.

Pierantoni said he walked for 12 hours before police recovered him at about 2 a.m.

PAGADIAN/A19

CHA-CHA STEPS

Solon wants 'protector of the people' provision for military out from Charter

By Juliet L. Javellana and Rocky Nazareno

IF and when the proposed Charter change gets underway, Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez will work for the removal of Article II and put the military back in the barracks.

The provision, which defines the military as the "protector of the people," is behind military adventurism and politicking, and coup, and destabilization threats will constantly arise because of this thinking in the Armed Forces, said Gonzalez, one of the proponents of Charter change in the House of Representatives.

"We'll never stabilize our country unless we amend the Constitution and remove that provision," the representative of Iloilo City told the INQUIRER yesterday. "For as long as that provision is there, we will always have (politically) ambitious generals.

Gonzalez said he would sponsor the removal of this provision so the government would become the rightful protector of the people.

He said that because the military's role in people Power I and II had been played up, certain ambitious officials had acquired the habit of demanding concessions from the civilian government through threats of a coup or a military junta.

"Let's put the military where it belongs—the barracks," Gonzalez said.

In the upper chamber, Sen. Edgardo Angara is at risk of being removed as chair of the committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and elec-

SOLON/A4

ERC suspends hearings on power rate hike

LATER, rather than sooner.

The fate of the Manila Electric Co.'s controversial petition to increase power rates will not be decided any time soon, after the Energy Regulatory Commission suspended yesterday's hearing, and oppositors to the proposed increase said the ERC was likely to call several more sessions. The hearing, supposedly the second to the last, was suspended after about three hours.

The militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, a leading oppositor, said this was because it had questioned Meralco's revised figures—first presented during the April 2 hearing, which company officials

ERC/A4

THE MAJESTY OF THE 'QUEEN MUM'S' STATE FUNERAL

Rare television address of Queen Elizabeth II (at right) is also a rare display of large-scale public emotion for her mother. His grandmum's favorite, Prince Charles (at left), gets ready to march behind her coffin for transfer(extreme right) from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey in London. Princes William and Harry take part in the procession. ***(Story on Page A13.)***

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Second FRONT PAGE

MAGKAKAMPI
LABAN SA BAGONG
KALABAN!

Terrorism, poverty are new foes—Gloria

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MT. SAMAT, Pilar, Bataan—-The Philippines and the United States, allies during World War II, and their common enemy, Japan, are now united against a "more formidable" adversary, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday

In an hour-long ceremony at the 60th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan here in which Japan's ambassador to the Philippines expressed his government's "apology for that painful time of history," the President said the three countries were now allied against the twin problems of terrorism and poverty.

Addressing some 3,000 World War II Filipino and American veterans at the "hallowed ground" of the Dambana ng Kagitingan, Ms Macapagal said the three countries are "today partners for peace, development and security."

"Through mortal combat in these mountains and fields, we have converged into an alliance against poverty and terrorism to work for progress and prosperity," she said.

That war, she added, provided lessons in peace for the three governments.

In Washington D.C., US President George W. Bush issued a proclamation declaring April 9 as "national recognition day" for former American prisoners of war.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone Jr., in a speech at Mt. Samat, said Bush had called on all Americans to join in remembering the POWs who "exemplified the best of our nation's spirit" and to especially recall the 60th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan, which he called a "sacred site."

Japanese Ambassador Yoshihisa Ara said his government offered "sincere and open partnership."

He said the alliance could "achieve our common goals through dialogue and mutual respect and understanding."

The future, he added, can only be "built and fortified on the lessons of the past."

Ms Macapagal emphasized that Japan, as the country's biggest source of official development aid, has become the Philippines' "foremost ally" in the war against poverty.

Ricciardone found the occasion "particularly appropriate."

Under the Macapagal administration, he said "Filipinos and Americans are standing together, shoulder to shoulder, to confront a common enemy."

The President also used the occasion to defend the ongoing joint Philippine-US military exercises, saying these were geared toward "rooting out terrorists wherever they may hide, in darkness or daylight." ***With a report from Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Gloria orders land sale to raise ₱20B for vets

MT. SAMAT, Pilar, Bataan—To raise P20 billion to pay for arrears to Filipino World War II veterans, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the sale of prime government properties in Japan and the lease of portions of two military properties in Metro Manila.

The President announced the plans during the commemorative ceremonies to mark the 60th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan.

Raising money for the veterans was a "major challenge," she told a crowd of some 3,000 veterans, including some 200 American veterans who joined their Filipino counterparts.

Ms Macapagal instructed Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to "take care of the sale of our properties in Japan," an idea which she said had been suggested by some congressmen.

The President also instructed Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to "pursue his idea" of converting the golf course of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center into a commercial center.

She also urged officials of the Philippine Veterans Bank and the Philippine Navy to come to a compromise over a disputed area of Fort Bonifacio so funds could be raised for the veterans and for the modernization of the Navy.

The President said "these and other ideas" would be discussed in a Cabinet meeting, which she added was dedicated to the "great Filipino veterans."

She presided over the regular Tuesday Cabinet meeting in Limay, Bataan, yesterday.

"We must do all these for our veterans because we can never truly enjoy the blessings of peace and appreciate the value of human life unless we recall the sacrifices of war. Our task is to develop the habit of thought and of actions that our veterans became known for in order to achieve our national goals: discipline, fortitude, a tough spirit to stretch the limits of human capacity," she said in her speech.

In time for the anniversary, the PVAO launched its information technology enhancement program, mainly through a website that the President said would enable the veterans to determine immediately the status of their claims from anywhere in the world. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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Centennial Expo exec faces raps over Benz sale

By Volt Contreras

THE OMBUDSMAN has filed a graft case against Luis Morales, former president of the state-owned Expo Corp., for the allegedly illegal sale of a government-issued luxury car in 1997.

Morales is accused of selling a Mercedes-Benz C230 for P2.25 million to a Rodolfo Lejano and failing to deposit the proceeds in the company's accounts.

Expo Corp., a joint venture between the government and the private sector, oversaw the construction of the now mothballed Philippine Centennial Expo complex in Clark Field, Pampanga.

According to the information filed at the Sandiganbayan last week, Morales allegedly sold the car without the requisite public bidding or approval of the Expo Corp.'s board of directors.

The car was one of the imported vehicles that the company had brought in tax-free, and was originally initially meant for Morales' predecessor, Teodoro Peña.

But when Peña resigned and was replaced by Morales, the latter sold the car to Lejano through Newtown Motors Inc. on Sept. 6, 1997.

A deed of sale was executed between Lejano and Newtown, upon which the latter issued a Chinabank check worth P1.04 million, the cost of the car as recorded in Expo's books.

But subsequent examination by the Commission on Audit showed that the check was neither deposited in the Expo's bank accounts nor did it enter its books.

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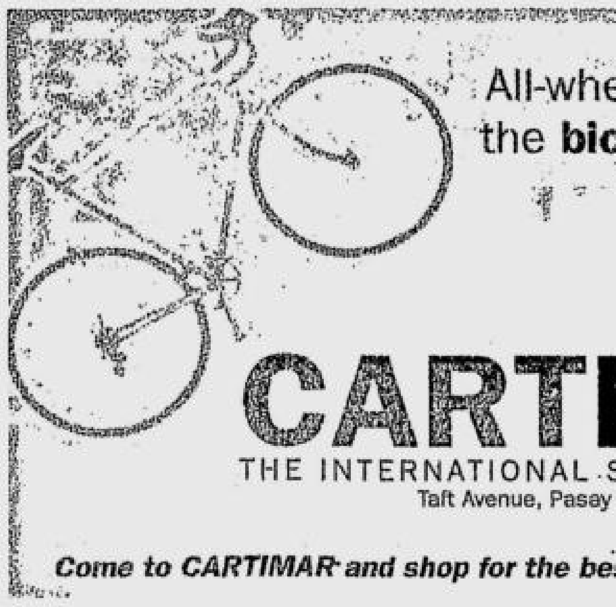

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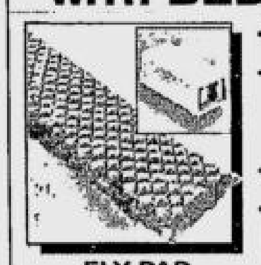

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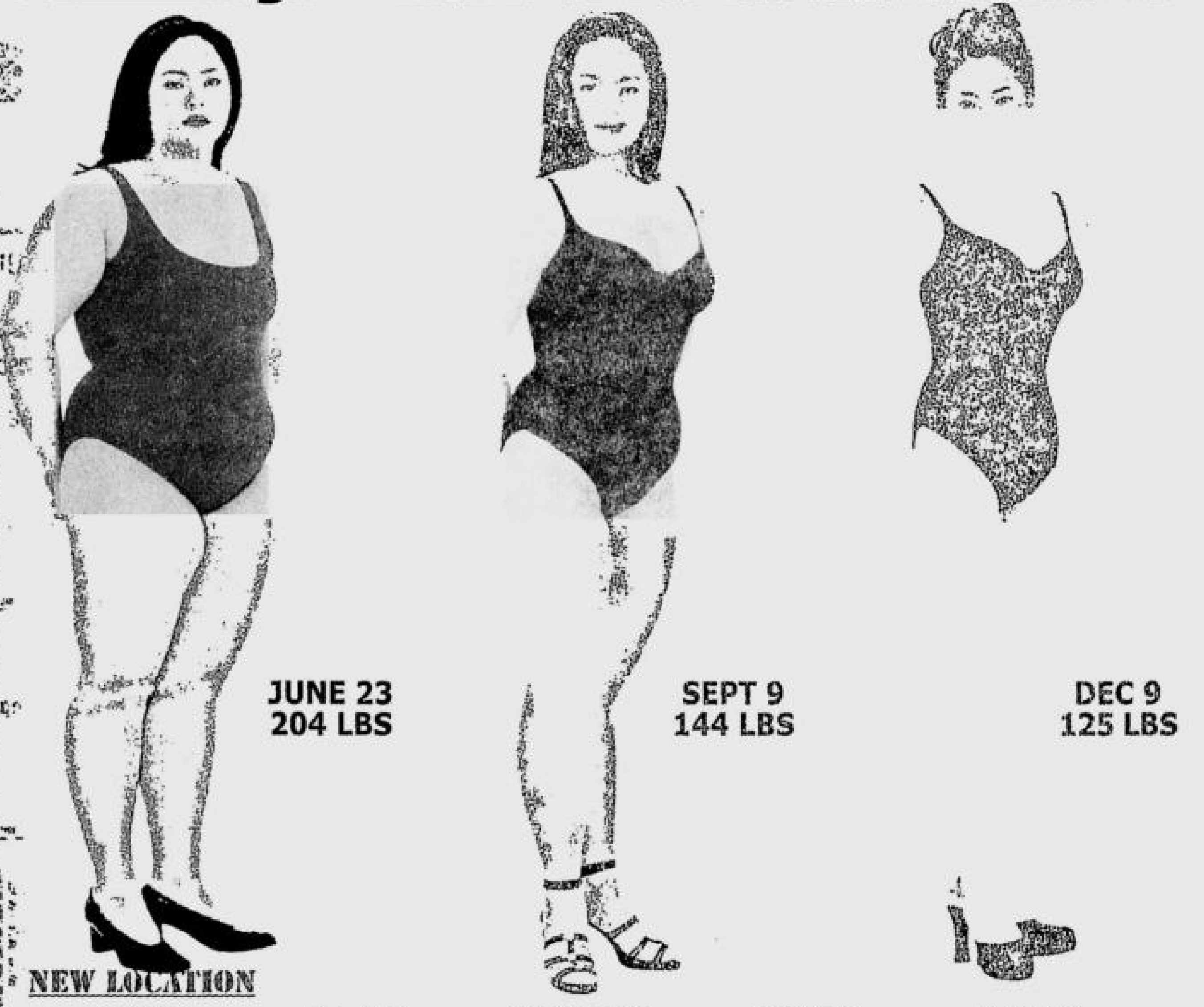

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Cimatu's detractors exaggerating —Villanueva

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu's detractors were exaggerating the military's supposed opposition to his becoming the next chief of staff.

Villanueva said the military would abide by President Macapagal-Arroyo's choice, contrary to retired Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos' claim.

"The military is military. We will always follow orders," he said.

"We will be exaggerating things if we say there will be an upheaval in the rank and file if one person is chosen over another. That is far from the truth," he added.

Villanueva was interviewed during the Araw ng Kagitingan rites at Mt. Samat in Pilar, Bataan, yesterday.

Villanueva said he could not stop De los Santos from making statements.

De los Santos, who retired last week, claimed the military is demoralized by Cimatu's possible appointment since this would mean his term would also be extended.

Villanueva retires on May 20. If Cimatu is appointed, he would be chief of staff for less than six months unless his term is extended.

Cimatu is set to retire on July 4.

Although Ms Macapagal has not announced her choice, she has hinted that she may extend Cimatu's term.

Villanueva claimed that instead of being demoralized, the rank and file are heartened that the President is not easily swayed.

"The morale is high because the President is standing pat on her prerogative, even without admitting she has already chosen General Cimatu.

"The choice of the chief of staff is simply the President's prerogative and there's no taking that away from her," Villanueva added.

PCGG: We need only 1 case to jail Imelda

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday said that it needed only one criminal case to put former first lady Imelda Marcos in jail.

PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza said this in reaction to the increasing number of dismissed criminal cases against the Marcoses.

"It takes only one (case)," Carranza said yesterday, when asked about Mrs. Marcos' statement on television that seven out of 417 cases filed against her have been dismissed.

The PCGG will be meeting with Ombudsman Aniano Desierto this week to explore ways where they could help each other in prosecuting the criminal cases against the Marcoses.

PCGG commissioner Victoria Avena said that it would not be proper for the PCGG to take Mrs. Marcos' word on the number of dismissed cases against her.

"What is important is that there are still pending criminal and civil cases against her," she said.

There are several civil and criminal cases against Mrs. Marcos pending at the Sandiganbayan, according to the PCGG. It did not give a specific number.

The PCGG said that it had now taken a more concerned stance in the criminal cases against the Marcoses and their cronies pending at the Sandiganbayan, in view of the big number of dismissed cases that the Ombudsman had handled.

The PCGG wanted the Ombudsman to deputize 29 of its lawyers so they could also help the Ombudsman's special prosecutors in handling Marcos cases at the Sandiganbayan.

It is the Ombudsman's Office of the Special Prosecutor that handles the criminal cases against the Marcoses and their cronies before the Sandiganbayan.

PCGG commissioner Carranza said that 92 out of 111 criminal cases filed by the PCGG against the Marcoses and their cronies had already been dismissed as of last year, either at the level of the Ombudsman or the Sandiganbayan.

He said that this was based on a "very rough" list the PCGG got from the Office of the Ombudsman.

Travel ban sought against ailing 'Bejo'

By Volt Contreras

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday asked that a hold-departure order be issued against ailing Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, whose arrest was recently ordered by the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court.

This developed after Romualdez, a week after the warrant was issued, had disclosed plans to undergo heart surgery either here or in the United States.

In a motion before the Sandiganbayan, the PCGG said the hold order would preempt any attempt by Romualdez "to further avoid arraignment" and to "prevent (the) probability of flight as he has previously done."

The younger brother of Imelda Romualdez Marcos, the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, asked the court yesterday to recall the warrant issued against him on April 2.

Romualdez was supposed to have been arraigned on March 25 for his alleged illegal takeover in 1975 of the Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Co. (Baseco).

Also yesterday, the justice department asked Romualdez to explain how he managed to accumulate P500 million in assets from the 1970s to the mid-1980s to avoid possible forfeiture proceedings by the Solicitor General.

State prosecutor Roberto Lao said the department has also issued subpoenas to three other alleged Marcos cronies—former Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco, Marcos Social Minister Fe Roa Jimenez and Carmencita Clavecilla.

Romualdez and the three others are being asked to explain how they accumulated a total of $17 million in unexplained wealth.

The PCGG had asked the justice department to conduct the inquiry with a view to forfeiting the respondents' alleged ill-gotten wealth.

"We are conducting the inquiry, which is similar to a preliminary investigation in a criminal case," Lao said at a press briefing.

"This is a civil case seeking the forfeiture of the assets in accordance with RA 1375," he said.

In his recall motion, Romualdez said his non-appearance for the arraignment was not out of disrespect for the court but "only for the purpose of avoiding a life-threatening situation."

His doctors had advised Romualdez against attending the arraignment, the motion said.

It said Romualdez would be undergoing a quadruple bypass for which, he claimed, he must not only prepare himself physically but also must put his official functions, business and family concerns in order. ***With a report from Norman Bordadora***

Solon wants 'protector of the people' provision for military out from Charter

From page A1

toral reforms if he blocks Charter change.

Sen. John Osmeña yesterday stressed that Charter change should be the "highest priority" of the administration, and that "if the majority (in the Senate) wants to amend the Constitution, then we should remove the chairpersons in the committees that do not want to (do so)."

Angara could not be reached for comment.

Osmeña said amending the Constitution would "release the energies of the countryside, which have been suppressed by our system of government with all of the decisions being made in imperial Manila."

"Anyone who says the first priority in economic development is investment (is) speaking out of ignorance," the administration senator said at a press conference. "Because if you bring about a regional or a federal system of government, you will see (each of) the various regions of this country picking up on development on its own."

Angara, a member of the opposition, had earlier said his committee was not too keen on pursuing Charter change at this time because this was not included in its short-term agenda.

He said the committee was more inclined to work for the passage of the bill on absentee voting, which he pledged to help pass into law by July.

Osmeña endorsed a proposal made by Senate President Franklin Drilon that a bicameral committee be formed to review the Constitution and recommend amendments to Congress acting as a constituent assembly.

Under Drilon's proposal, Congress will subsequently submit the amendments for approval by the people in a referendum.

Osmeña said that with this process, "we don't need" the barangay-level consultations being proposed by the House of Representatives.

"Let us not forget that any amendment will have to be ratified by the voters in this country," he said. "That is going to be the ultimate consultation—asking them if they approve or disapprove (of the amendments)."

Regional governments

Osmeña, chair of the powerful Senate finance committee, said he would push for the creation of "a regional structure" wherein each region would have its own government.

"That would be a compromise to a federal system of government, and that may be able to appease the separatist movement in the Bangsa Moro areas," he said.

He also said he would advocate "a parliamentary system with a strong president, like that in France," and foreign ownership of land and public utilities by as much as 100 percent.

"That is a very impractical provision because when you say that foreign investors can only own up to 40 percent, you are saying that the Filipinos have to put up the 60 percent of what could be billions of dollars as capital for some enterprises," Osmeña said.

He added: "We should agree to 100-percent foreign ownership. It is not important who owns the factory. What is important is that the ones who are working and earning livelihood are Filipinos."

Con-Con

Rep. Willie B. Villarama (2nd dist., Bulacan) said the responsible way to amend the Charter would be through a constitutional convention whose members were freely elected by the people, and not through Congress sitting as a constituent assembly.

"The people will perceive a Charter revised by incumbent lawmakers as a victory of personal and partisan interests over the national good," Villarama said in statement Monday.

He also said the election of delegates to a constitutional convention would "unleash fresh talents and liberate new ideas" that would help push economic growth and social justice.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, April 10, 2002
2nd Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 5:17-26**
Gospel: **Jn 3:16-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned. He who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the Name of the only Son of God.

This is how the Judgment is made: Light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For whoever does wrong hates the light and doesn't come to the light for fear that his deeds will be shown as evil. But whoever lives according to the truth comes into the light so that it can be clearly seen that his works have been done in God."

Commentary

John's gospel guided us through the second half of Lent. Now John will bring us all the way through the Easter Season to Pentecost. He showed us the actions of Jesus. Now he will present Jesus' teaching, while the first readings from Acts will remind us that these gospels were born from the early Christian community, shaped by what they wanted to preserve and teach about Jesus in the light of their experience of living in the Spirit. Today, they assure us that Jesus came to bring life, not to condemn. We judge ourselves: depending on whether we move towards light, transparency and truth, or darkness, corruption and half truths. If it's the latter, take heart. Jesus has a word for us too: "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (SUMMARY PROCEDURE)—Ejectment cases—It bears stress that in ejectment cases, the only issue for resolution is who is entitled to the physical or material possession of the property involved, independent of any claim of ownership set forth by any of the party-litigants. Anyone of them who can prove prior possession *de facto* may recover such possession even from the owner himself. Ejectment does not depend on title for relief, the criterion is the right to possession. Thus, priority in time should be the pivotal point in resolving the issue of possession. Section 1, Rule 70 of the Revised Rules of Court requires that in actions for forcible entry the plaintiff is allegedly deprived of the possession of land or building by force, intimidation, threat, strategy, or stealth, and that the action shall be filed within one year from the time of such unlawful deprivation of possession. This requirement implies that the possession of the disputed land by the defendant is unlawful from the beginning as he acquired possession thereof by unlawful means. The plaintiff must allege and prove that he was in prior physical possession of the property in litigation until he was deprived thereof by the defendant. The one year period within which to bring an action for forcible entry is generally counted from the date of actual entry by the defendant on the land. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, Gener v. De Leon, G.R. No. 130730, October 19, 2001]

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ERC suspends hearings on power rate hike

From page A1

defended yesterday.

"We just want to know how Meralco was able to come up with the revised rates. They made changes that eased the burden on the low-income consumers, but what happened was the burden was passed on to the middle class. We wanted them to present to us the basis on how they computed the rates," Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes said.

Reyes said Meralco had failed to provide those opposed to the increase with advance copies of the formula it had used to arrive at the new rates.

The ERC has until June 26 to resolve Meralco's application.

In a press briefing at the world headquarters of the Asian Development Bank, a ranking ADB official suggested ways for the national government to cushion the impact of power rate increases.

ADB country director Thomas Crouch said there were two ways to do this: through innovative industry pricing and through subsidies from general government revenues.

Crouch said the power industry could support an arrangement where an electricity supplier charges certain consumers at a premium—thus allowing other, less financially sound consumers a power supply at lower rates.

Or, Crouch said, subsidies from general government revenues could be availed of by directly reimbursing consumers.

"Generally speaking, if it's going to be done through the government, you have a very transparent system of financial transfer," he said. This could be put to a vote in the legislature or included in the national budget, he added.

This would allow the government to meet what he called the social equity objective of electricity.

He admitted, however, that the government had "very little room to maneuver on the fiscal front because of the very large size of the deficit at the moment."

"One important factor to consider is to subsidize small targeted elements of electricity consumers," he added.

Street protests

But militant groups said they will not wait for the next hearing, scheduled for April 17, to press their opposition. They will take to the streets tomorrow, marching to Malacañang, to make their grievances known to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"This would be our response to the triple whammy—the increase in prices of oil, water and electricity," Reyes said.

What Reyes called picket protests would also be staged in front of most of Meralco's major payment centers, including Commonwealth, Kamuning, Roosevelt and Quezon Avenue.

These will not disrupt operations, he said, but will instead inform consumers of what really goes into their electric bills, he explained.

In its original proposal, Meralco specified a rate increase that would take effect as a result of the so-called unbundling of rates. The 51- to 300-kwh users, generally low-income consumers, were the most affected.

In the April 2 ERC hearing, however, Meralco revised its rates, shifting the burden to middle-income consumers.

"In an altruistic intention to temper the impact on low-income consumers, the rates did go down. (But) they did that by shifting the increase to the 500- to 1,000-kwh users," Reyes explained.

"But how did they get these new rates? With what they did, they proved that they can actually decrease the rates. Maybe the rates can go down further," he added.

Reyes further said that Meralco should come up with documents explaining the formula by which it computed the new rates. If not, they could be charged with being "arbitrary," quoting figures that are baseless and "unscientific."

The purchasing power adjustment (PPA) should also be tackled within the formal hearings as this would still have an impact on consumers even when the unbundled rates take effect.

With unbundling, the electricity bill would be broken down into its component parts, such as generation, distribution, supply, metering and universal charges.

Reyes said the PPA would no longer be named as such, but would be reclassified and included in the generation and distribution charges.

"The PPA will not go away. This will still be embedded in the unbundled rates," he said. ***Abigail L. Ho.***

Abu leader holding TV journalist tagged

By Fe Zamora
Inq7.net

ALDABAR Parag, alias Nadzmi, a Jolo-based Abu Sayyaf commander allied with captured Commander Global, was identified by the government-owned Radyo ng Bayan as the leader of the group holding broadcast journalist Arlyn de la Cruz.

Quoting sources, Radyo ng Bayan said in a broadcast from Jolo that Kumander Al Parag's group is keeping the 32-year-old broadcast journalist in Maimbung, a town outside Jolo.

Sen. Noli de Castro, in a radio interview also yesterday, said De la Cruz's captor, a certain "Lakandula," asked for a cellphone and pocket money in exchange for her freedom sometime in March.

"It was just a cellphone, and Arlyn personally talked to me to give Lakandula a cellphone. I thought she may need it also for communications," De Castro said.

He said he sent a cellphone through an emissary, but the reporter was not released.

"Lakandula said he wanted to let her go, but somebody higher rejected the plan," De Castro also said.

This "somebody higher" was identified in other reports as a "PNP lieutenant who is a Moro National Liberation Front integree."

Military sources of INQ7.net also said the PNP lieutenant is connected with the Internal Defense Force (IDF) of Jolo, while Lakandula is an "ustadz," a religious leader among the Muslims.

As of yesterday, De la Cruz's captors were still demanding an P11-million ransom—P1 million on the day of her release and P10 million to be paid within one month.

Quoting an emissary who met De la Cruz last month, De Castro said the journalist had lost weight and was suffering from skin rashes apparently from living in a forested area.

Otherwise, De la Cruz "is in good health, and in fine condition," De Castro said, quoting his emissary.

On March 3, however, De la Cruz sent a text message to INQ7.net complaining that she had difficulty moving her bowel due to lack of drinking water. In early February, she also complained she was bitten by a venomous milliped, which caused her leg to swell.

"*Bigay sila dahon para gamot* (They gave me herbs as medicines)," De la Cruz said in a text message.

Blood thicker than water in Basilan, says AFP chief

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva is not surprised by reports that local government officials may be supporting members of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said that "blood is thicker than water" and that relationships among Basilan residents override everything else.

"I know that blood and personal relations always run thicker than our perception that everybody should go against these terrorists," Villanueva said.

However, he added that this kind of support was "selective" and was not organized.

"They don't have a system... they're selective (based on personal relationships), they choose whom to support," Villanueva said, adding that it was not part of any strategy.

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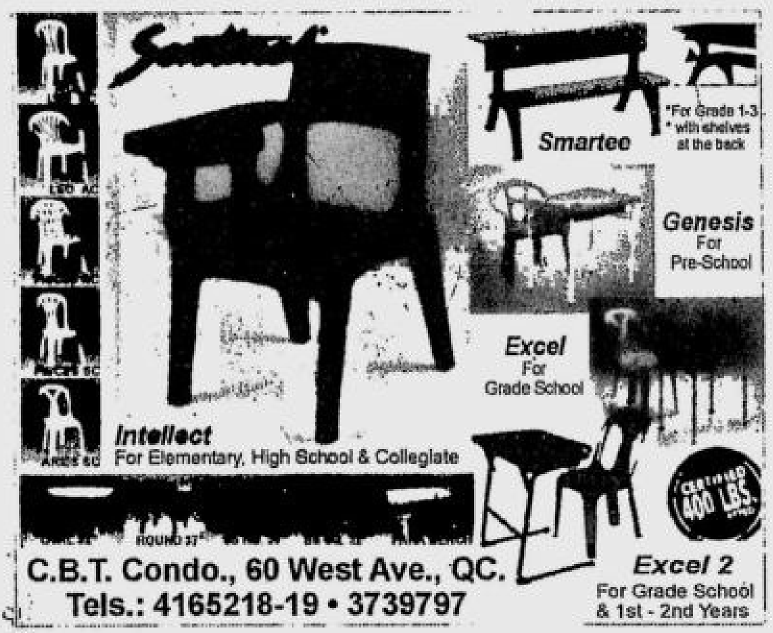
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POWER RATE HIKE THROUGH UNBUNDLING IS PREMATURE

Section 36 of Republic Act 9136 of the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001" **must be modified by Congress** as it makes it mandatory for the 139 utility firms to file their revised unbundled power rates and for the Energy Regulatory Commission to act on their power rate increases by June 26th.

We do not oppose the attempt to unbundle the power rates if the objective is to purely guide the consumer on what the rates would be when full privatization takes place.

However, **we strongly object if unbundling is linked to a mandatory power rate increase. Such an increase is premature since the Napocor transmission lines and the gencos** (generating companies) **have NOT yet been privatized** and therefore, their costing cannot be determined when computing a rate increase.

Many issues have to be resolved before the ERC should consider petitions for power rate increases planned by 139 utility firms nationwide. Among these are:

1. **The unbundling of the power rates should start with Napocor which must explain the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA)** as practically all the 139 distribution utility companies purchase their power from **Napocor**. PPA is based on the pricing of power purchased from **Napocor**.
2. **Napocor** must present, **in a clear, transparent and user-friendly language, the TOTAL stranded cost (Napocor losses)** broken down into, one, what the consumer will have to pay and, two, what the National Government will absorb due to the inefficiency and mismanagement of **Napocor** over the last 30 years. To be explained are the following losses:
   a) The stranded cost resulting from the total **Napocor** debt of P809 billion, considering that there may not be sufficient assets and equity to cover this huge sovereign debt after **Napocor** has been privatized.
   b) The stranded cost due to power supply contracts with some 40 Independent Power Producers (IPP) that have to be honored even if these are not operating and even if the electricity contracted is not needed.
   c) The stranded cost from the sale of old and inefficient NPC power plants which must be sold below their book value, as it will be cheaper for genco bidders to build a new combined cycle power plant using more efficient fuel and costing lower to operate.
   d) The stranded cost due to the shutdown of Luzon power plants because of excess capacity aggravated by the entry of 2,600-megawatt gas-fired power plants.
   e) Finally, a breakdown of the cost to operate each power plant will help the public understand the rationale behind the PPA charges.

We will meet with **Napocor President Roland Quilala** and Power Sector and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) **President Edgardo Del Fonso** to seek clarification on the above issues, particularly, the PPA - Purchased Power Adjustment. This will be followed by a separate meeting with **Meralco President Chito Francisco**.

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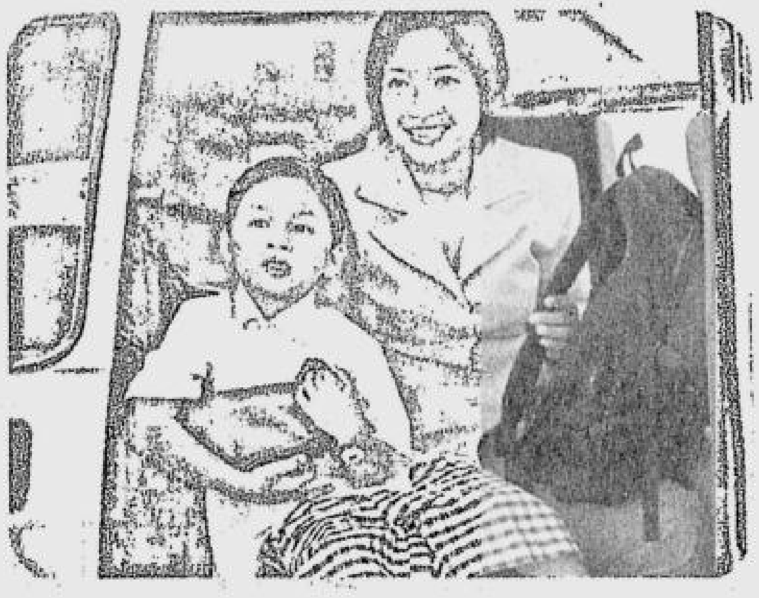

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SOLIDARITY STATEMENT FOR THE SOCIAL ACTION CENTER OF THE DIOCESE OF ILAGAN IN ITS POSITION REGARDING BOMBO RADYO DZNC

We, the undersigned, representing the Diocese of Bayombong, the Diocesan Social Action Center (DSAC) & DWRV AM/FM Stations, would like to express our support and solidarity with the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Ilagan in its position regarding the arbitrary closure of **Bombo Radyo DZNC**

* We firmly believe and uphold that there are other lawful and just means to address the issues at hand.

* We firmly believe and uphold that the use of force and power are never good substitutes to the courts of justice when it comes to legal decisions.

* We firmly believe and uphold the freedom of the press as embodied and guaranteed as right in our constitution.

* We firmly believe in and uphold due process as a means to clarify and sort out issues/problems toward their solutions.

* We firmly believe and uphold that dialogue is one of the best means to foster understanding and peace.

Therefore, we strongly deplore any action that runs counter with these basic human rights.

+RAMON B. VILLENA, DD
Bishop of Bayombong
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Pressured or paid?

EDITORIAL

AFTER ALMOST six months in captivity, Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni of the missionary order of the Sacred Heart of Jesus walked his way to freedom—and a brewing controversy over the circumstances of his release. Pierantoni, who was seized allegedly by the Pentagon Gang on Oct. 17 last year as he was having dinner in his parish in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, was recovered by police officials at 2 a.m. Monday near a forested area in Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who turned 55 last Friday, described Pierantoni's release as "a very beautiful gift to me." Obviously carried away by the joyful event, she said her administration's new policy of going after kidnappers first instead of aiming for the rescue of the victim had started to bear fruit. "Thanks to Divine Mercy, after the intense battle in the whole of Mindanao, at last we have saved Father Pierantoni," she told the nation in a radio address marking the 60th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan.

If there was a "a fierce battle in the mountains of Mindanao" for the rescue of Pierantoni, it was the first time people heard about it. PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said "a massive operation in the Zamboanga Peninsula led to (Pierantoni's) recovery," but the last armed encounter between police forces and the kidnap gang occurred two days before the priest was found by government forces walking by himself. He said the gang members had abandoned Pierantoni and fled as a joint police-military task force led by Director Reynaldo Velasco and Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon was closing in on their hideout. There was no firefight, no arrest and no ransom paid, Mendoza added.

Military officials, who were part of the mission to rescue Pierantoni, however, said negotiations for the priest's release were going on until a few days before his release. But they said they didn't know how the talks ended. "We were about to stage the rescue after getting the information (about Pierantoni's whereabouts) and we were surprised that the police were deploying too," said Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, deputy commander of the Army's First Infantry Division and Task Force Guiseppe chief.

Pierantoni, who had written the bishop of Pagadian a month earlier to say that his kidnappers were demanding a $1-million ransom, said he was aware that negotiations were being conducted three days before he was freed but he did not know who were the negotiators. The day before he was freed, he was made to walk for 12 hours through a dense forest before a Pentagon "commander" turned him over to the negotiators who were waiting inside a car. He also noted the presence of an ambulance at the site of the turnover.

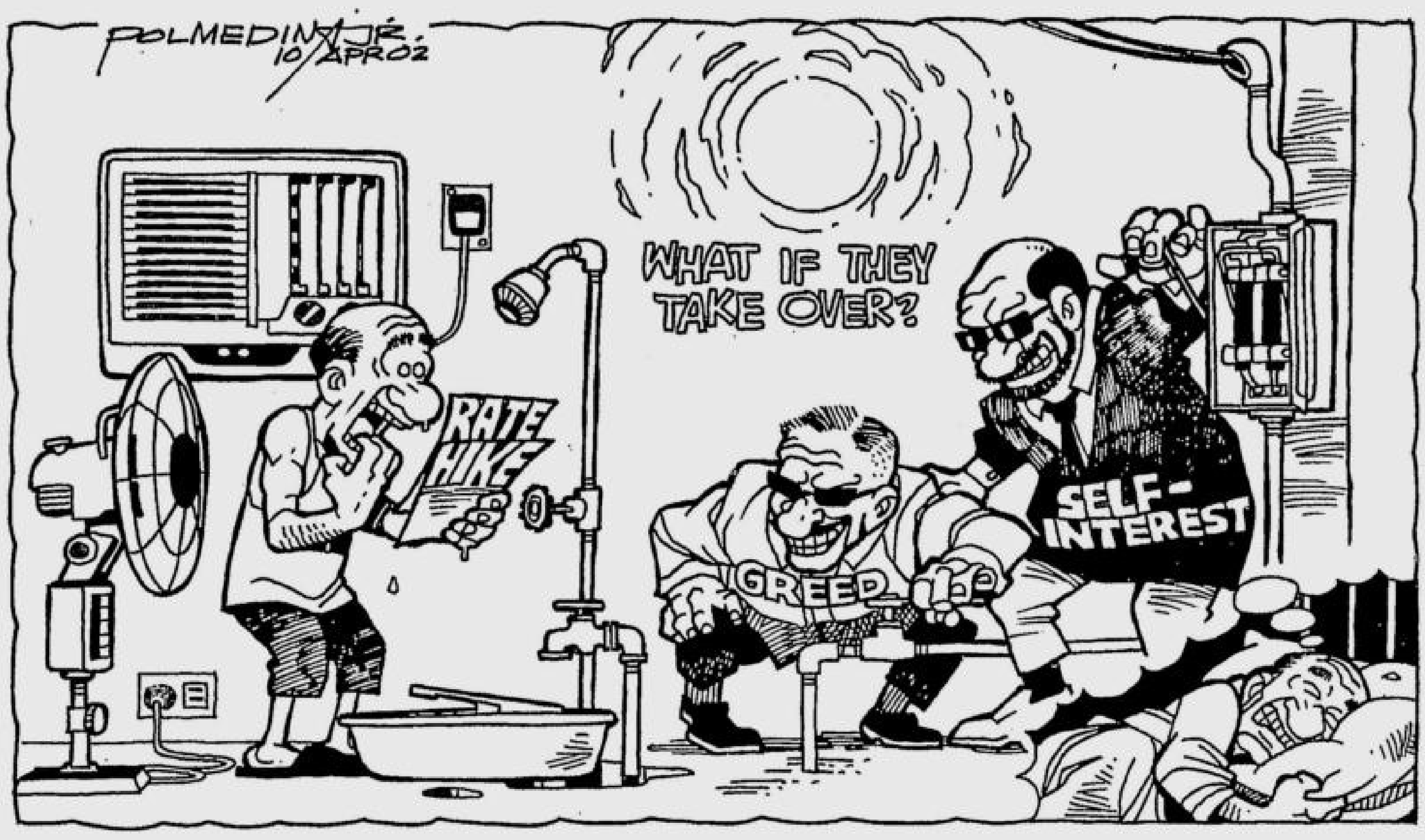
Atutubo said Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on special concerns, was instrumental in the release of Pierantoni. In fact, it was Gonzales who brought Pierantoni to Manila in a private jet, Atutubo added.

What we have here are two versions of the same event. On one hand, the President and the Philippine National Police are insisting that the kidnappers were panicked into abandoning their hostage as government forces prepared to mount an attack on their hideout. On the other hand, military officials and Pierantoni are hinting that a deal had been cut and that the police knew in advance that the priest was being freed. Which version is the public supposed to believe?

What Pierantoni did was certainly no walk in the park, but it is equally certain that his kidnappers were not being harassed or even feeling threatened. Then he walked straight into the welcoming arms of negotiators and the police who were obviously expecting his release, as they came with an ambulance and even had a private jet ready to fly him to Manila to meet with the President.

Pierantoni said his release appears to have been prearranged, and the facts bear him out. The only question now is, what was the *quid pro quo*? Was any ransom paid? Or what concession did the government make to secure Pierantoni's freedom?

There are too many questions the government has to answer to satisfy a skeptical public. Sticking to the PNP's version simply doesn't wash. It's like saying that all the pieces just happened to fall neatly into place. Before any thinking person can accept that, he would take Pieranatoni's explanation any time. "It was a miracle of prayer," the priest said when asked to explain how he survived six months in the jungle and came back free.



Cut power rates by correcting Meralco abuses

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THEY are still debating the proposed Meralco rate increases but electric consumers were already shocked when they received their power bills this month. The amounts being charged them have doubled. Are the new rates already being charged? If not, why have the electric bills doubled? It cannot only be because of the bigger power consumption because it is summer. Not everybody has air conditioners. There must be another explanation. Will Meralco please explain?

But explain it clearly, without the technical and confusing gobbledygook. Meralco (and the water concessionaires and oil cartel, too) has been getting away with murder because the ordinary Filipino is not good in arithmetic and mathematics. When it comes to numbers, they'd rather accept them than do their own computations.

For example, officially, Meralco is asking the Energy Regulatory Board only for a 30-centavo per kwh increase on its basic rate. But in reality, the increase will be P1.16 per kwh. This is being done through the "unbundled rate" (the total bill is divided into its different components) that Meralco has been told by the new Energy Regulatory Commission to submit after the passage of the Power Deregulation Law.

Meralco says that it is in technical default with its foreign creditors which require from borrowers an 8-percent return on rate base (RORB) instead of the 5-percent RORB that it is currently making. RORB means a profit that is in proportion to a company's assets. An 8-percent RORB means that for every peso worth of total assets, Meralco must have a profit of 8 percent, or 8 centavos. The bigger the assets, therefore, the bigger the profits needed to achieve the required RORB. Hence, if the assets are inflated, it would appear that its profits are small, and Meralco is justified in asking for a rate increase.

Then there is the question of the definition of RORB. The World Bank's definition is BEFORE tax. But Meralco's definition is AFTER tax, or net profit.

If that is really the WB's definition, then Meralco is misleading us by making us believe that it is not making a reasonable profit. An 8 percent after-tax profit is already 8 percent before tax.

More unconscionable is the desire to make the public carry the burden of making Meralco profitable without correcting the inefficiencies and abuses in its management and operation.

Meralco, the ERC, the Department of Energy and Congress must first correct the following abuses that have been making Philippine power rates too high.

1. Meralco has not stopped the practice of inter-company transfer of profits by awarding juicy supply contracts at higher prices to Lopez-owned companies and other favored suppliers of transformers, meters, cables, trucks, poles, substations, engineering services, etc. These billion-peso a year procurements are either negotiated or done through pseudo-public biddings. If these additions to Meralco's rate-base (assets used in providing electric service) are overpriced by 10 percent, then the monthly electric bill you and I are paying is overpriced by 10 percent, or 50 centavos per kwh.

2. Meralco always blames Napocor for its abhorrent PPA (Power Purchase Adjustment). What should be explained is how much of the P2.60-per kwh PPA is contributed by the power supply contracts that the Lopez-managed Meralco negotiated privately with Lopez-owned power producers. Why is Meralco willing to buy power from Quezon Power Ltd. at P5.50 per kwh when Napocor sells to it at P3.50? Why did Meralco sign for an $800-million 440-mw coal power plant when Napocor's similar and bigger (at 660 mw) plant in Masinloc costs less? Industry experts estimate that the Mauban coal plant is overpriced by $300 million. Now the public is being made to pay for these overprices. These two contracts alone add about 75 centavos per kwh to our monthly electric bill.

The authors of the power deregulation law have even protected the right of Meralco to charge the consumers for these overpriced power without any meaningful attempt at genuine mitigation. On top of that, the Senate energy committee further rewarded Meralco with rights to negotiate more bilateral contracts with its sister companies.

3. What is happening to the P10 billion that Meralco is supposed to refund to the consumers? It has been able to freeze it in the Supreme Court. With interest, that P10 billion is now P20 billion.

4. What is Meralco doing to control its own operating expenses that become part of the power rate being charged to the people? Can't they not drive normal cars like the rest of us do? What's with the coat-and-tie dress code even for security guards? Is Meralco conserving electricity just like the rest of us? We, the people, also pay for the electric consumption of Meralco.

5. In spite of all these financial largesse, Meralco has failed to reduce its system losses even with the Anti-Pilferage Act. Now Meralco has to absorb one percent of the systems losses which is a big factor in its failure to improve profitability.

Given all the financial resources at the disposal of the Lopezes, this failure to reduce systems losses is tantamount to mismanagement. This systems losses are probably equivalent to 35 centavos per kwh.

If Meralco will only correct these malpractices, then the rate can easily go down by about P1.60 per kwh. Even if it is given a 60-centavo rate increase, the consumers will still be entitled to a P1 per kwh rate reduction.

Excess

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LITO Zulueta called it "pornography of grief on television." That was his description of the public displays of anguish by movie stars and other personalities on TV over the death of Rico Yan. But it wasn't just they who were to blame, Zulueta said. The networks were too. They were responsible for the orgy of weeping and gnashing of teeth that befell the nation on the days normally associated with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Zulueta did not have a kind word for the TV personalities who badgered the relatives and friends of Yan for every small detail of his life and death. Nowhere, he said, had TV become more intrusive and abusive. Or indeed lost all sense of proportion altogether. Suddenly, Israel's invasion of the West Bank and the Pope's frail condition turned into minor footnotes to history, or to news. Days later, Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio would breathe their last, too, but their passing would be buried (pun intended) in the landslide of the coverage of Yan.

Tarcilla Francisco had the same complaint in the INQUIRER last Sunday. Of course, she said, the death of a promising young man, and one who had accomplished the remarkable feat of not figuring in a scandal while in show biz, is a natural magnet for hype. But media went completely gaga over it. Helped in no small way by the President materializing at Yan's wake and even attending a whole Mass. Of course, she also dropped by at Celerio's wake, but that merited only brief mention in the media. And she did not bother at all to go to San Pedro's wake.

I share their sentiments completely. My only area of disagreement is a very minor one, which is that it is hard to describe something as intrusive when its attention is greatly welcomed, and even solicited. From what little I saw of the interviews on TV, I did not get the impression that the interviewees were particularly desirous to protect their privacy, or keep their grief to themselves.

As to the President descending on Yan's wake, well, that part of it I wasn't surprised at all. The official justification was that Yan was an ambassador of goodwill, but even if he were not, I cannot see how the President, who has been resolutely electioneering since Day One, could have been deterred from coming. If she dropped by on Celerio, it was because he happened to be in the neighborhood. Not so San Pedro, who was in Angono. And not too many voters remember "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan"—or as Zulueta quoted one TV reporter as saying, "Sa Unggoy ng Duyan."

I caught the news of Yan's death on TV on Good Friday on ANC, which was the only local station remaining on the air then. When my daughter came home late at night, she asked me if I had heard the news. I said what news, thinking I had missed something life-and-death from newspapers going into self-imposed retreat on Lent's holiest days. She said Rico Yan was dead. I said I caught the news flash from their station, but who was Rico Yan? She laughed.

My question would be answered in a humongous way during the next few days.

It did sadden me to hear of the death of a young person, and one, who I would see later on the front pages of newspapers and prime time news, had Peter Pan looks, one blessed with the appearance of perpetual youth, or eternal childhood. But I too was violently startled to see how media went to town on it. And indeed beyond media, how the public lapped it up.

I did not know what was happening in our neighborhood last Thursday when I woke up. There was a collective drone from TV sets tuned to the same program. Later that morning, when I went down to the parking lot, I saw people huddled in the stores, watching TV, without the usual sighs and shouts that accompanied an NBA game. I saw a priest saying Mass on one TV set, and I wondered why people were watching it on a Thursday. Then I saw several movie stars near the priest, and I remembered that was the day of Yan's funeral. The only other time I had seen people glued to television that way in recent weeks was during the Oscar Awards.

What does all this mean? Well, two things, I suppose.

One is the awesome power of media, which doesn't always augur well for us. Media have as much power to confuse as to enlighten, to create myths as to inform. Media's intrusiveness is almost inevitable. Over the last several years, media have discovered a gold mine in the maxim "truth is stranger than fiction" and exploited "real life situations" to maximum benefit. The success of the "Survivor" series testifies to it. "The Truman Show" and "Ed TV" are cautionary tales of the extent to which TV can intrude into public lives and make it public fare. I once saw a satire, whose title I can't remember, about a TV outfit that decides to feature a day-by-day, minute by minute, second by second, coverage of a Death Row convict who is about to be executed, which becomes a monster hit. These things are not beyond happening.

The other thing is, well, the public wants it. The public demands it. It's a chicken-and-egg situation, except that you don't know which is the chicken and which is the egg. That, too, cannot augur very well for us. Like India, which pioneered the trend of movie stars becoming elected officials, we are now a country that grinds to a halt at the death of a movie star. The movies and media have replaced the school and the church as the most powerful instruments for molding national consciousness. Which is easily shown by the results of national elections over the last decade. I understand Yan himself dreamt of becoming a president one day. He wasn't dreaming idly.

There have been many deaths lately. Unfortunately, some of them we not only did not have the heart to mourn, we did not have the wits to see.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

All that for an Israeli buffer zone

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE ISRAELI military attack on Monday at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem drew a condemnation all over the world. Israeli troops ringing the church, which is one of Christianity's holiest shrines, exchanged fire with Palestinians holed up inside the church. More than 200 armed Palestinians have sought refuge inside the church.

The attack prompted Fr. David Jaeger, spokesperson for the custodians of Catholic sites in the Holy Land, to issue a strong condemnation. "This is an act of indescribable barbarity," he said. "It is a violation of the explicit and repeated public and diplomatic guarantees of the State of Israel with consequences that will be long-term and incalculable."

The attack was the latest in a series of Israeli actions that have raised a storm of condemnation of the Israeli 10-day offensive to seize Palestinian key cities on the West Bank and isolate Yasser Arafat, whose headquarters in Ramallah, is surrounded by Israeli tanks and troops.

In these attacks, Israel has defied most of the world. It has defied demands of the United States and its European allies to withdraw its troops immediately from the Palestinian cities and go back to negotiations in accordance to United Nations Security Council resolutions. It has sent the Arab world up in arms against Israel, giving the often fractious Arab countries a cementing issue and put up obstacles for the United States to get the moderate Arab countries on the side of President George W. Bush's rather belated warning to Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to withdraw his forces from the West Bank "without delay."

Sharon's objective in the offensive is to drive out Arafat's forces from the West Bank cities and deploy Israeli forces into these "buffer zones" between Palestinian and Israeli territories. This offensive seeks to prevent and deter the Palestinians from launching suicide attacks inside Israel. Arafat has decided to dig in at Ramallah, enhancing his position as a martyr. The removal of Arafat and the undermining of his leadership among the Palestinians can only lead to the rise of more radical leadership and even more suicide bombings in Israel. The spiral of violence on the West Bank and to the international isolation of Israel following the offensive, point to the danger of the conflict undermining the US-led war on terrorism and to the expansion of the conflict in the Middle East. At the rate that Sharon has defied Bush's demand for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops, there's no stopping the Israeli army from creating this new buffer zone.

The United States has acted too late to halt the offensive from fulfilling the objective set by Sharon. Bush has sent Secretary of State Colin Powell on a peace mission to the Middle East to bring it back to negotiations. Powell supersedes Gen. Anthony Zinni, the low-level US mediator, and because of his status, Sharon interpreted Zinni's mediation as a tokenism and a signal for him to go ahead with the offensive in the West Bank.

Powell is seeking the support of moderate Arab states like Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, behind Bush's plan for an immediate Israeli withdrawal, ceasefire and return to negotiations (which are now as good as dead), before going to Israel. But Powell's mission appears to have redoubled Sharon's resolve to seize the Palestinian cities and make the buffer zone objective a *fait accompli*.

In the pursuit of this strategic military objective, which Israel believes would give it the diplomatic upper hand in dictating not only the fate of Arafat but also the terms of negotiations, Israel did not concern itself over whether it drew international condemnation from Christian churches, the United States' European allies and even the international press.

During the siege of Ramallah, CNN and BBC TV footage showed Israeli military vehicles ramming media vehicles and Israeli troops throwing stun grenades at journalists covering the action. The TV crews and journalists were not crossing the military barricades. They were behind the barricades. An Israeli government spokesperson said Israel is a democracy and respects freedom of the press but its action on the press was intended to protect them from harm (meaning from the Palestinians), protect Israeli soldiers and protect Israeli civilians who had been victims of Palestinian suicide bombing attacks.

The spokesperson's statement did not quite square with the fact it was the Israel side which was ramming press vehicles, attacking pressmen with stun grenades and preventing them from reporting the news the way they see it. The Palestinians were not a threat to the newsmen. The press people were not being fired upon by the Palestinians.

The Israeli government claims that it is the protector of the press and of the freedom of movement of the press. From the footage, it is the press that needs protection from the Israeli forces. Journalists covering wars tend to go out to dangerous combat zones, but they do it at their own risk and responsibility. That's why they take casualties when caught in the crossfire. But that's the only way to get the news as it happens—not how military censors would like the news to be seen.

The Israeli government does not want journalists to see what its troops are doing during the offensive. Many of the journalists are not Israeli citizens. Their reports and footage fill the gap formed by scanty coverage on the front. They are the source of information that has aroused the world to condemnation and even complaints among the liberal Israeli opposition members that they are not getting enough information from the front.

The case of Arlyn de la Cruz

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

STRANGE indeed is the case of Arlyn de la Cruz, the journalist who has been missing since January in Mindanao. While US and local troops comb Basilan for the whereabouts of the Abu Sayyaf and its hostages, and even as the President herself leads the celebration over the "recovery" of kidnapped missionary priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, nobody seems unduly alarmed about De la Cruz's status.

In an article for the Philippine Journalism Review, freelance journalist Carlos Conde observes that De la Cruz "is probably the only journalist in the world whose 'disappearance' does not seem to worry anyone, particularly her colleagues."

I might amend that to note that De la Cruz would at least be missed by her family, she is married and has a child, and by her "home" network, the Iglesia ni Cristo TV station Net 25, as well as by her friends.

Still, those who might help in her speedy release, recovery, escape or rescue don't seem unduly energized by De la Cruz's disappearance. The Armed Forces spokesperson has said they suspect it's just "one of her operations," though he did say soldiers had been told to "look for her." And while journalists' organizations have issued the obligatory statements of concern, Conde is right, there doesn't seem to be much agonizing over her in our community. This may be the reason civil authorities don't also seem unduly pressured to find her.

* * *

JUST recently, the story returned to front-page and primetime news status with the publication of an "open letter" written by De la Cruz and addressed not to the police or military or even Malacañang, but to her colleagues in the media.

The first thing that struck me was that the letter seemed overly long and well thought-out. Not something you'd expect to have been written on the run or by someone under duress or stress.

The letter's tone also seemed to be "off." If you were being held hostage by a "composite armed group," wouldn't your first thought be of escape or rescue, and concern for your physical safety? In her letter, though, De la Cruz seemed more concerned about what her media colleagues thought of her and had been saying about her.

She took great pains to belie speculations that she had staged her own kidnap, and even engaged in a bit of self-promotion, saying that if she was guilty of anything, it was being so hungry for a scoop she would brave any danger just to get the story.

But the staged kidnap-for-ransom story seemed bolstered the day the letter came to light, with Sen. Noli de Castro revealing that an "intermediary" had approached him with a demand for ransom that had been reduced from P40 million to P11 million. De Castro, though, said that he believed De la Cruz could be released for a "down payment" of P1 million. What's this—*paiyakan* ransom?

* * *

DE LA CRUZ first made a name for herself by her extraordinary access to the Abu Sayyaf. Not only was she able to score "scoops" over all her competitors, she was also able to score "exclusives" for big-time foreign news agencies, serving as some sort of liaison between news teams and the bandits. While the Abu Sayyaf were indeed legitimate news subjects and sources, there do appear to be ethical violations in a supposedly objective journalist serving at the same time as a press agent for a gang of terrorists and kidnappers.

Indeed, at the height of the Sipadan hostage crisis, even with the full might of helicopter gunships and hundreds of troops, the military always seemed one step behind the Abu Sayyaf. And after every frustrating raid, there would be De la Cruz and other journalists interviewing the terrified hostages, the images transported to our homes on the early evening newscasts.

All the military needed to do, it seemed, was tail De la Cruz to find the Abu Sayyaf leadership.

There were even speculations that De la Cruz had somehow developed a "romantic" relationship with Khadaffy Janjalani, the Abu Sayyaf leader. De la Cruz and her journalist-friends deny this, though De la Cruz herself has written that in her years of covering the Abu Sayyaf, her relationship with "Daf," as she calls the Abu Sayyaf head, has gone beyond that of journalist and source, to at least one of friendship.

* * *

THAT'S a common enough problem for all journalists, even those not quite of De la Cruz's "scoop above all else" school of journalism.

"Friendship is the biggest enemy of a journalist," Ben Bradlee (I think) has said. And indeed, it's when a source or a subject becomes a friend that a journalist loses objectivity—the right to exercise it and claim it, or even the enthusiasm for it.

And the real trouble is that it's so easy for sources to turn into friends. Some people are simply likeable, and politicians especially can turn on the charm when they want to. And it can be difficult to keep your distance and your skepticism when you've covered someone for years, seeing him or her day in and day out, and being singled out for special treatment.

But keep one's distance the journalist must. Or at least try. It does seem so typically Pinoy that some reporters, far from working hard to preserve their objectivity, seem bent on destroying it for the flimsiest reasons, like getting one's primary source for *ninong* or *ninang* at one's wedding or the baptism of one's child.

What do you do when your source turns into a friend? The most expedient solution would be to stop covering your friend, or to tell one's readers or audience that you're not being a journalist on this story, but a friend whose objectivity can't be relied on.

More fitting necrological honors

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

CONVERSATIONS the past week had an annoying tendency to drift toward the late Rico Yan. Having written two columns on *bangungot*, I am asked many complicated questions often forcing me to reply that I am just a mere historian, not Ernie Baron. Fortunately, not all conversations ended badly, there were times when talk branched out beyond show biz into a reflection on the media circus that hounded Yan to his resting place. How much privacy should we give people who are considered public property? Isn't the loss of privacy the price of celebrity? Was it right for the fans—the source of Yan's fame and fortune—to demand unlimited access during the wake? Now that the circus is over maybe we should stop and think about that invisible line that separates the public from the personal, the legitimate need for news and the invasion of privacy.

My own questions concern the print space and air time given Yan. A historian a century from now, using the newspapers of today, will probably wonder why Yan's death eclipsed that of Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and two National Artists for Music—Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio. Now I understand what Teodoro Agoncillo used to say about a historian needing perspective when he writes. But then, perspective, like hindsight, is something that comes along after an event.

Television coverage showed us the long lines outside La Salle Greenhills. People literally breaking down doors to pay their respects or get one last chance to ogle at Yan. This was then contrasted with the small groups at the wake of Celerio and San Pedro, both National Artists. There must have been a point to this, but I felt the TV news was comparing apples and mangoes. There was no comparison here except the number of people and these deaths provided me with reflections on fame and greatness.

How long will we remember Yan's dimples and movies? I don't think these will become part of our heritage in the way that "Waray-waray" and "Maligayang Pasko" (better known as "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit") are to us. This music is played and sung everywhere from the Cultural Center to karaoke bars and yet few people realize that the words that are part of our lives came from a man named Levi Celerio. It is rather sad that Celerio is best remembered for producing music from leaves—a feat that gave him a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records. The man is more than a circus side-show. He wrote lyrics for over 4,000 songs. He set words to music in less than an hour, sometimes borrowing a ball pen and writing these down on the back of an empty cigarette pack. Despite all his accomplishments, he is not known to many Filipinos. Worse, he did not get rich from his work.

Lucio San Pedro of Angono was a prolific composer yet he is best remembered for a haunting lullaby titled "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" (as the hammock sways), not "Ang Unggoy sa Duyan" (the monkey on the hammock) as allegedly reported by one media person. A year ago, I drove to Angono and visited Maestro San Pedro. I was received in a small air-conditioned studio and there he was asked for the nth time about "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan."

He said that the melody was based on a tune his mother used to lull them to sleep on a hammock. It was written in 1943, during the dark days of the Japanese Occupation, and was to be entered in a song-writing contest. The composition was shelved because it had no lyrics. In 1948, on his way home after a year of studies at Julliard in New York, the ship he was in stopped in Honolulu. A group of Filipino musicians en route to Guam came on board. One of them was Celerio. In the ship's dining hall San Pedro played the tune to Celerio, describing how homesick he was and how he would remember his mother rocking him to sleep in a hammock. If Celerio were an academic he would probably think he was hearing shades of Oedipus, but then he was a lyricist who sat and set the words on this most famous and haunting of San Pedro's compositions. He wrote:

Sana'y di nagmaliw ang dati kong araw/ Nang munti pang bata sa piling ni nanay/ Nais ko'y maulit ang awit ni inang mahal/ Awit ng pag-ibig, habang ako'y nasa duyan.

Sa aking pagtulog na labis ang himbing/ Ang bantay ko'y tala, ang tanod ko'y bituin/ Sa piling ni nanay, langit ang buhay/ Puso kong may dusa'y sabik sa ugoy ng duyan.

The translation of the above from the CCP Encyclopedia of Philippine Art is as follows:

I wish that my days had not faded away/ When I was still a babe in my mother's cradle/ I want to hear again my loving mother's song/ A song of love that lulled me in the hammock.

In my slumber exceedingly deep/ The star guided me and watched over me/ With my mother life was paradise/ My anguished heart longs for the swaying hammock.

Today and tomorrow necrological services will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines for Levi Celerio and Lucio San Pedro. One piece of music common to both services will be "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan." Not only did they collaborate on this one song that is now part of our heritage but it is quite apt that a lullaby will accompany them to their final resting place.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The heroes stand in judgment

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.,
Institute on Church and Social Issues

SEARCHING the Web for material on the Battle of Bataan, I was surprised to note that almost all of what I found was written by Americans and for Americans. It took some searching for me to discover, for example, that there were fewer than 12,000 American soldiers in Bataan and more than 100,000 Filipinos; that 600-650 Americans died in the Death March compared to between 5,000 and 10,000 Filipinos; that in 40 days at Camp O'Donnell 1,500 Americans died, while in four months, 25,000 Filipinos died.

My point here is not to blame the Americans for attempting to "steal the glory" for themselves, the "glory" of what was in fact a major defeat and one brought about—it seems—by the indecisiveness and worse of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. For we do not celebrate victories but the heroism of those who fought and died, whatever the outcome. My point is rather the power of symbols which could unite and inspire the nation.

Personally, I recall the awe with which I stood on the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg, in the United States, at the "high-water mark of the Confederacy" where a handful of the Southern troops, survivors of a desperate and suicidal charge, reached the Northern guns only to be beaten back in hand-to-hand fighting. The spot where the fate of the nation hung in the balance and was decided by a handful of heroic and nameless soldiers. This sense of awe deepened as I played over in my mind the stirring words of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. "But in a larger sense, we cannot consecrate, we cannot dedicate, we cannot hallow this ground. For the brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have hallowed it far beyond our poor power to add or detract…It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work to which those who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced…that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

This sense of awe and reverence in the presence of powerful secular symbols has been called "civic religion"; the physical place, the flag, the national anthem stir an awareness of shared values more important than life itself, and thus provide the ideological and emotional mortar which binds together millions of individuals to form an "imagined community" ready to defend those same values.

Nor is that mortar weakened by the fact that the American nation has failed again and again to live up to the values for which Gettysburg stands; indeed, one of the characteristics of civic religion is that it can critique and criticize failures by a community to live by its values, as many Americans did in their protests against the Vietnam War.

Returning to the case of Bataan, which can be taken as a symbol of the whole Filipino resistance to the Japanese invasion and occupation, there is an abundance of material to inspire awe, reverence and a commitment to the nation. Christians and Muslims, mountain people and lowlanders, people of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, "Filipinos" and "Filipino-Chinese"—all experienced the Japanese occupation, and many of them actively and courageously resisted it at immense cost to themselves.

Historian Alfred McCoy, in his "Closer than Brothers," recounts some of the stories of resistance, though there were surely thousands more unrecorded. One account describes the exploits of the "Off-Shore Patrol," three torpedo boats commanded by young PMA graduates and operating in Manila Bay at the beginning of the Pacific War. Among these exploits was a battle with Japanese Zero fighter-planes which spotted two of the torpedos streaking across the bay and attempted to strafe and sink them. As the Zeros came from behind, only 100 feet above the water, Lt. Ramon Alcaraz, skipper of one of the boats, pulled the throttle open to reach a full 60 miles per hour; then each time a Zero dove to bring the boat into its sights, he veered off in a wrenching right-angle turn out of the line of fire. As the plane passed, he veered back to give his machine-gunners a clear shot at the target. For 40 minutes the torpedo boats outmaneuvered the planes until three of the latter, repeatedly hit, went spinning out of control and the others gave up the fight.

McCoy relates how Lt. Arcadio Mayor insisted on staying behind on Christmas Day, 1941, to delay the Japanese advance from Mauban to Manila. With 100 men and a machine gun, he faced more than 1,000 Japanese backed by artillery and air power. As the Japanese closed in, he ordered his men to withdraw and then covered their retreat with the machine gun, and died only after firing his last belt of ammunition.

Then there was Alberto Aranzaso of the Army Air Corps who successfully engaged the Japanese in the air and later attempted to escape from Corregidor by small boat. When the latter was sunk by Japanese fire, Aranzaso, unable to swim, deliberately allowed himself to drown rather than burden his companion.

There are other stories as well of heroism during the Death March, at Camp O'Donnell, in the guerrilla movement. Together with the stories of Jose Rizal, Ninoy Aquino, Evelio Javier and those who made the supreme sacrifice during the dark days of the Marcos regime, they should be told and retold. Not only as inspiration, nor only as symbols which can unite the nation. For the heroes of the past stand in judgment on contemporary pettiness and greed, on compromises and self-centeredness and ambition, on the divisiveness which make a mockery of their sacrifices.

THEY SAID

Going overboard

"While we recognize the right of every citizen to redress of grievance against any branch of the government, we nevertheless deplore the abuse of such a right."

—Integrated Bar of the Philippines president Teofilo Pilando Jr. urging the junking of the impeachment complaint filed against Supreme Court justices

Mother's legacy

"When the time comes, you will know how your mother fought the hardest trial of her life."

—Juliet Yee said to her unborn child after the Supreme Court upheld the sexual harassment case she filed against a former health officer

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LETTERS

Will there ever be peace in Palestine?

WE sincerely express oneness with the Muslims and Christians now united in prayer for peace in Palestine in the face of the all-out military offensive unleashed by the Sharon government against Palestine leader Yasser Arafat and the entire nation.

We praise the Christians in Bethlehem for offering their churches as places of refuge for the besieged Muslims. This, more than ever, is a strong affirmation of the worldwide call for a stop to the siege of Palestine territories and immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops.

But this call for peace is being defied by the Sharon government with the all-too-apparent backing of the Bush administration as the two in fact collaborate on a full-scale war against the Palestinian nation. For a month now, the Sharon government has been pounding Palestine to force Arafat into submission. Labeling Arafat a "terrorist" and mastermind of the suicide bombings by militant Palestinian groups, Sharon has pounced on the desperate tactics of some Palestinian groups to justify its assault on the Palestinian authority and the people living in the West Bank. The Sharon regime has found seemingly moral grounds to allow it to act in accord with its militarist and fascist mind-set encouraged no less by US bellicosity.

We, thus, reiterate the Organization of Islamic Conference statement calling the Sharon government's assault on Palestine as "a violation of all international norms and laws and the culmination of state terrorism as practiced by Israel," in other words, Ariel Sharon's own brand of terror.

Its continued and even heightened bombing of Palestinian territories in its attempt to seize Arafat and to completely occupy Palestine has already taken the heaviest toll on the lives of innocent civilians.

Moreover, Israel has blatantly ignored the many peace initiatives of Muslim nations such as the Saudi peace proposal and appeals of the Arab Summit. Worse, it disregards the United Nations Security Council resolution that urges Israel to withdraw from Ramallah and other Palestinian cities.

But we do not at all find this surprising for in the past, Israel has repeatedly flouted UN resolutions and peace accords to mitigate the plight of the dispossessed Palestine people and end the long-standing dispute between Israel and Palestine. Indeed, Israel, with the full support of US President Bush, has proven itself unyielding to international appeals to find a peaceful solution to the armed conflict.

—REN JALALUDDIN ROPETA, vice chair, Moro-Christian People's Alliance, 48 Mapagbigay St., Barangay Pinyahan, Diliman, QC

Death penalty has not yet been allowed to work

WE see no end to this worn-out debate on whether or not to abolish the death penalty. We are writing this as victims of heinous crimes who must stand up and fight for our story that is probably all too common but shows the worst side of our legislators and probably a few of our fellow NGOs.

We are appalled at some of our legislators who seem to be exploiting this issue for their political interests. We are pained by the antics of some self-serving NGOs which have gleefully joined in the controversy for whatever it is worth. They are so absorbed over this mad scramble to abolish the death penalty that they have lost focus on the plight of thousands of crime victims who are at the losing end in all these grandiose debates.

The depth of a victim's pain in the aftermath of a horrible crime may be beyond the comprehension of those who are not themselves victims. We carry the burden of waging a difficult and lonely battle for justice against hardcore criminals within a framework of laws that are weakly implemented and lacking in government support.

The death penalty law is a sad example of a legislation now at risk of being yet again butchered by our legislators barely a few years after it was passed. We appeal to them to give the death penalty law a chance to bare its deterrent effects. Considering that the law's effectiveness has not been fully tested, to repeal it at this time is not in order and is definitely a disservice to victims.

We assure our lawmakers that we refuse to simply sit back and suffer the blatant manipulation for what is politically expedient. Justice in this country is elusive. We appeal to our lawmakers not to make it even more difficult for us to get the justice we seek.

—DANTE LA. JIMENEZ, chair, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, Rm. 315, 3/F Pope Pious XII Catholic Center, UN Avenue, Manila

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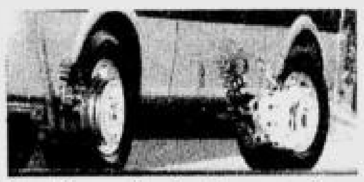

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Erap-Ninoy comparison inaccurate

THIS refers to the March 7 column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan in which she criticized Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta for comparing former President Joseph Estrada to her late brother Sen. Ninoy Aquino.

We wonder where Cunanan got her facts and if she got them right. Oreta never meant to compare the two personalities in terms of the causes they are fighting and have fought for. She was merely pointing out the fact that both Estrada and her late brother Ninoy felt that they could not get justice under the system because of what they believed to be the mind-set and the lack of impartiality of the courts handling their respective cases. Estrada, for his part, believes he cannot get a fair trial because almost all the petitions and motions he had filed before the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court were turned down.

That was as far as the comparison that Oreta made when she was asked by the media about this issue.

—TERESITA S. CASTILLO, chief of staff, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Rm. 516, GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

The killing has not stopped since Abraham

THOUSANDS of years after Abraham reached the Promised Land, his children continue to quarrel and kill one another over what their father found and established for all his children. The quarrel over land between Israel and Palestine, spearheaded by their respective leaders Ariel Sharon and Yasser Arafat, has led to bitter wars and battles and the ongoing hemorrhage of both peoples' lives. I cannot help but think of the fight between Abel and Cain where human weakness prevailed over the natural bond between brothers and their nobility of soul.

From Abraham, Jews, Muslims and Christians descended. We Christians, Muslims and Jews are children of Abraham. We are children of the One God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

—FR. ROBERT P. REYES, Gomburza

Worthy credentials of new SMC chief

THOSE who underestimate the credentials of Ramon Ang, the newly appointed San Miguel Corp. president and chief operating officer, are sadly deficient in crucial information who, according to Sophocles, don't know what good they have in their hands until they've flung it away. Don't they know that Ang has got character?

"A man of character will make himself worthy of any position he is given," says Mahatma Ghandi, and Ang will prove him right. Moreover, the new SMC helmsman is a mechanical engineering graduate from the Mapua Institute of Technology. Don't mechanics make things work?

One more thing, Ang is one of the most accommodating guys I've ever me. He always finds time to converse with people—rich or poor. A quality which is sorely lacking among many of the country's top business figures.

—ERICK SAN JUAN, Suite 1402, 1st e-Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

A need we must address

THE INITIATIVE taken by Congress toward charter change is a most laudable move. The change of government—from its present presidential form to a unicameral, parliamentary one—is something we acutely need to address.

We recognize and salute the moves undertaken by the leadership of Congress, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Rep. Ed Nachura, to push for this strategic political move to convene a charter change.

Political procrastination on this vital need will not help the country which direly needs a change in the form of government from the present one which has been proven to be a major obstacle to our political maturation and economic recovery.

It's high time our leaders took a bipartisan national consensus to put this among the imperative agenda in the coming political summit next month. It's high time we all united for the common good and move for a charter change.

—VIC DEL FIERRO, vdelfierro@hotmail.com

Malaysia to buy 3 French subs, signs defense deals

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia has agreed to order three French submarines, the country's maiden submarine deal, as part of a concerted effort to modernize its armed forces, defense sources said on Tuesday.

They told Reuters that the Defense Ministry issued a letter of agreement (LOA) to a Malaysian company which is representing French warship builder DCN International.

"The LOA was issued last month and the firm has been given three months to work out terms of the contract," the source said.

DCN had been considered a front-runner to land the Malaysian deal, which analysts valued at $1,08 billion.

Malaysian officials on Tuesday also signed defense contracts worth more than 300 million ringgit ($79 million) to buy mobile military bridges and assault rifles.

Defense officials also signed a memorandum of understanding to purchase bullet components, and said more contracts would be signed this week.

Under the deals, signed by defense ministry secretary general Hashim Meon, the government will buy the hardware from Malaysian companies working with foreign partners.

Under two contracts worth a total of 220 million ringgit ($ 58 million), Malaysia will buy five mobile bridges—three from Britain's Vickers Bridges and two from France's Construction Industrielles de la Mesbiperranee.

Under a third contract, Malaysia will buy Steyr rifles from Malaysia Explosives Ordnance in a deal worth 84.5 million ringgit ($22 million), officials said. The number of rifles was not disclosed.

Malaysia recently embarked on what Defense Minister Najib Razak called "major defense procurement programs." Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said last month that Malaysia would buy tanks from Poland, and had discussed buying a range of missiles, navy ships and rocket launchers from Russia. Details were not released.

Tuesday's contracts were signed on the sidelines of the Defense Services Asia exhibition, which brings together more than 200 security officials from 36 countries. ***Reuters, AP***

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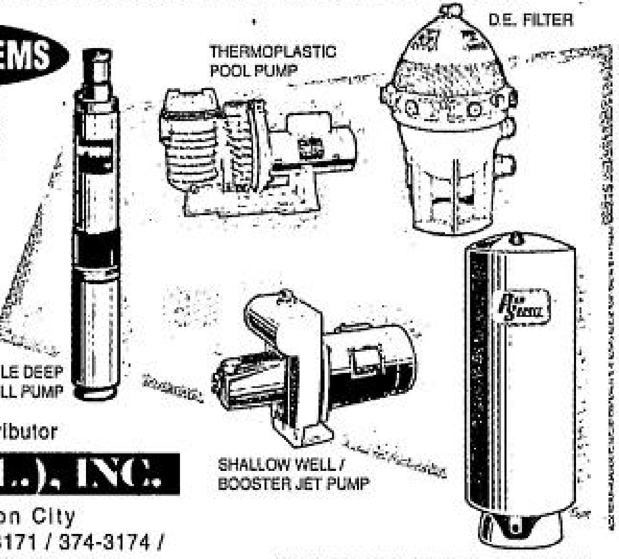
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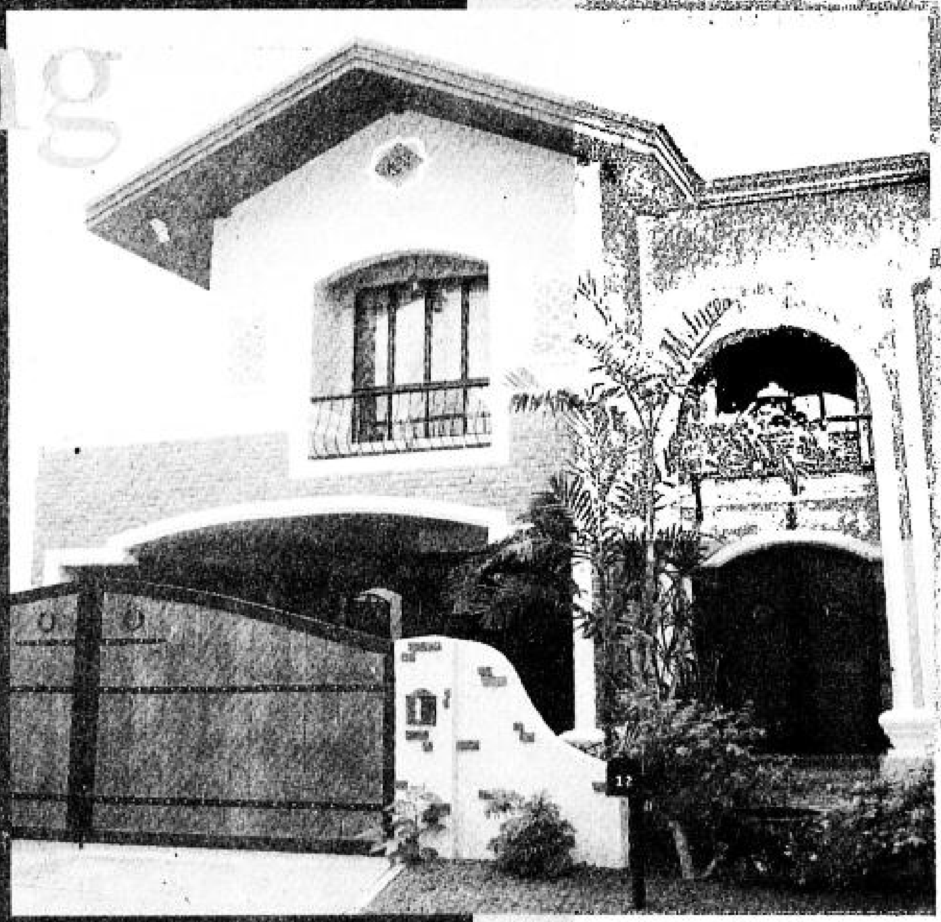

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Rumsfeld: Neutralized though free Bin Laden 'better than nothing'

WASHINGTON—Though US forces have failed to capture Osama bin Laden, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld says the manhunt has at least neutralized the terrorist leader.

"Our goal was to try to stop terrorism to the extent that we could, and that means putting pressure on them," Rumsfeld said Monday. "And to the extent enough pressure is applied, they have to stay so busy surviving, moving from place to place," that they cannot plot more terrorist acts.

"That is not your preferred outcome, but it is a better outcome than nothing," Rumsfeld told a Pentagon news conference.

President George W. Bush has said he wants Bin Laden captured, dead or alive.

Meanwhile, in a sign that the Pentagon is preparing for a long war on terrorism it has decided to reduce the number of aircraft carriers committed to the war in Afghanistan from two to one.

The USS John C. Stennis and its battle group will head for home in a few weeks as scheduled, but the USS Kitty Hawk, which would have replaced it, will instead remain in its usual duty area in the Pacific, officials said. The lone remaining aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea will be the USS John F. Kennedy.

US officials say there has been little or no sign of Bin Laden since last December. There is speculation that he escaped into Pakistan or another country; that he remains in Afghanistan, and that he is dead.

Rumsfeld said it was "interesting to me" that no Bin laden videotape has surfaced in months.

Appearing with Rumsfeld, Gen. Richard Myers, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also stressed the value of having at least forced Bin Laden to hunker down and stay out of sight. "The goal there was never after specific individuals," Myers said. "It was to disrupt the terrorists."

Rumsfeld said he was not disturbed that six months after the US military campaign in Afghanistan began, Bin Laden remains at large, along with at least a dozen of his most senior lieutenants.

"It's hard to find an individual," he said. "That's why when we began this thing I did not personalize it . . . We said our task is to do what we said it was. We're working on that. We're having good success. You know some of the Nazi war criminals weren't caught for years afterward, years—found in South America. So does that mean that we didn't win World War II?" *AP*

REUTERS/ EDWARD KEATING/ THE NEW YORK TIMES

A TEA set caked in dust sits in an apartment just across the street from where the World Trade Center once stood on Sept. 19, in this photograph from the Pulitzer-Prize winning entry in breaking news coverage awarded to the staff of the New York Times.

Peruvians tell horror stories of violence

HUAMANGA, Peru—Grim-faced, fighting tears, peasants on Monday told horror stories of rape and torture from years of violence by the military, police and rebels that killed 30,000 as Peru's truth commission held its first public hearings.

Pointing her finger to her temple like a gun, Angelica Mendoza, 72, who wore the typical broad-brimmed white hat and wide skirts of the Peruvian Andes, told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission how her 19-year-old son was dragged out of bed by hooded soldiers in 1983, never to be seen again.

Liz Valdez, 22, recounted how her mother was hauled off by police, raped and then tortured to death in 1991, leaving her—she was then aged 12—and her 8-year-old brother orphans.

Twenty-year-old Rebecca Gamboa, living proof of Peru's painful past, heard for the first time full details of how she was conceived when her mother was gang raped by soldiers at the age of 16. Tears poured down her cheeks as she listened.

The emotional accounts were delivered in a university auditorium in Huamanga, near Ayacucho, the southern city where Peru's bloodiest rebel group, Shining Path, was born.

It is the first time a Latin American truth commission has held public hearings. Peru created its truth board last year with a mandate to shed light on human rights atrocities committed under three governments between 1980 and 2000.

For much of that time, Peru was wracked by parallel wars by Shining Path and the smaller Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, or MRTA, both seeking to impose a communist state.

The military responded with take-no-prisoners tactics.

Many poor Andean villagers lived in the cross-fire between the armed forces, who threatened to treat anyone who did not help them as rebel collaborators, and guerrillas, who killed anyone they suspected of helping the military.

"These hearings seek to end the silence that had become intolerable," the commission's President Salomon Lerner said.

Dozens of peasant women turned out for the first day of the hearing, many clutching red balloons to symbolize drops of blood and photographs of relatives who died or disappeared.

Peru estimates that in addition to those killed by leftist rebels or the military, some 6,000 people simply vanished. The commission reckons there are over 150 mass graves in Peru. *Reuters*

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Queen pays tribute to mother

LONDON—Britain's Queen Elizabeth paid a heartfelt tribute to her late mother on Monday while the Queen Mother's four grandsons staged a solemn, silent vigil beside the royal matriarch's coffin in a poignant echo of history.

In a rare televised address to the nation, the Queen said she was touched by the kindness of the 150,000 mourners who have queued round the clock to pay their respects to the Queen Mother, who died on March 30, aged 101.

"The extent of the tribute that huge numbers of you have paid my mother in the last few days has been overwhelming," she said, adding that the death of the 'Queen Mum,' who helped steer Britain through World War Two, had left behind a great void.

"I have drawn great comfort from so many individual acts of kindness and respect," she said.

As the queen's message was broadcast, her mother's four grandsons ended their 20-minute vigil at the coffin, underlining the royals' more open response to large-scale displays of public emotion at another death in the House of Windsor.

The queen's sons, princes Charles, Andrew and Edward, and the late Princess Margaret's son, Viscount Linley, stood guard with heads bowed at the four corners of the velvet-draped catafalque on which the coffin has lain in state since Friday.

Their Vigil of the Watch echoes the one undertaken 66 years ago for King George V, when, in the same medieval hall, his four sons stood guard around the coffin.

The House of Windsor has been quick to show the public its grief for the Queen Mother, learning a lesson from accusations it was cold and aloof after the death of Princess Diana, the "People's Princess," in a Paris car crash five years ago.

The queen, who lost both her mother and only sibling, Princess Margaret, within seven weeks, spoke of her mother's "infectious zest for living" and her hope that sadness would blend with thanksgiving at her mother's funeral on Tuesday.

"Thanksgiving, not just for her life, but for the times in which she lived—a century . . . not without its trials and sorrows, but also full of extraordinary progress, examples of courage and service as well as fun and laughter," she said.

The royals have been out in force since the Queen Mother's death, keen to show their appreciation for the public sympathy. A river of mourners, many queuing for up to seven hours, has filed past the coffin over the past few days.

Although public reaction to the Queen Mother's death was initially muted, an estimated 400,000 people turned out last Friday to see her coffin being borne in a grand display of pomp and pageantry to Westminster Hall.

Crowds of diehard royal fans were growing outside Westminster Abbey on Monday evening, determined to brave a cold spring night to ensure a good place to watch the funeral procession in the morning.

Prominent royals, including Charles and his sons William and Harry, will take part in the funeral cortege. *Reuters*

QUEEN MOTHER

MEMBERS of the public gather outside Westminster Abbey for the funeral of the Queen Mother in central London, April 9. REUTERS

Afghan police probe slay try on minister

KABUL—Afghan police have made a series of arrests over an apparent assassination bid against Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim amid mounting evidence of unraveling security, officials said Tuesday.

At least four people were believed to have been killed and some 50 injured in the attack on Monday in the eastern city of Jalalabad when a explosive device went off seconds before a convoy carrying the minister passed by.

The assassination attempt against Fahim came just days after intelligence chiefs detained more than 250 people for allegedly plotting a massive bomb campaign against the interim administration.

"A number of people have been arrested who are thought to have been behind this attack," Din Mohammad Jurat, head of the common law and order department at the interior ministry, said.

"They were detained after the police authorities in Jalalabad raised suspicions about their possible links to the attack."

But the official added that no charges had been filed and it was still unclear exactly who was responsible for the blast.

Earlier defense ministry official Mir Jan had said authorities were still in the dark about a motive.

Asked who was thought to have been behind the attack, Jan said: "Opponents of peace, security and the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan. For the time being I cannot accuse anyone in particular."

The attack in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, is the latest in a series of incidents that have thrown up fears over the security situation in Afghanistan.

Intelligence chiefs claimed to have discovered explosives-making equipment during a series of raids last week which led to the detention of some 260 people for allegedly planning a mass bomb campaign against the interim administration. *AFP*

Oil prices rise after Iraq halts exports

NEW YORK—Global oil prices surged Monday after Iraq announced a 30-day suspension of oil exports to try to pressure Israel into withdrawing from Palestinian territories.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Baghdad was suspending oil exports for 30 days or until Israel had "unconditionally withdrawn" from the Palestinian territories they had occupied.

Iraq's oil ministry later announced it had halted oil exports through the Mina al-Bakr terminal and the Turkish port of Ceyhan.

The price of light sweet crude for May delivery climbed 33 cents to close at $26.54 a barrel in New York.

In London, benchmark Brent North Sea crude for May delivery spiked as high as $27.43 a barrel. Prices later stabilized around $27 a barrel, up from 25.99 on Friday evening.

Oil prices had already been bubbling higher as Israel pressed ahead with its siege of the West Bank despite calls from US President George W. Bush for an immediate withdrawal.

But Wall Street and other world stock markets took a fresh hit from the Iraqi news. Conversely, major oil companies rallied because of the rising energy prices.

"It is the initial shock of the news," said Drew Matus, a financial economist at Lehman Brothers.

Iraqi Oil Minister Amer Mohammad Rasheed said the measure was aimed at the United States.

"This measure means that (the absence of) two million barrels of Iraqi oil will have a major impact on the oil market and directly hurt the US economy," he told Iraq's satellite channel. *AFP*

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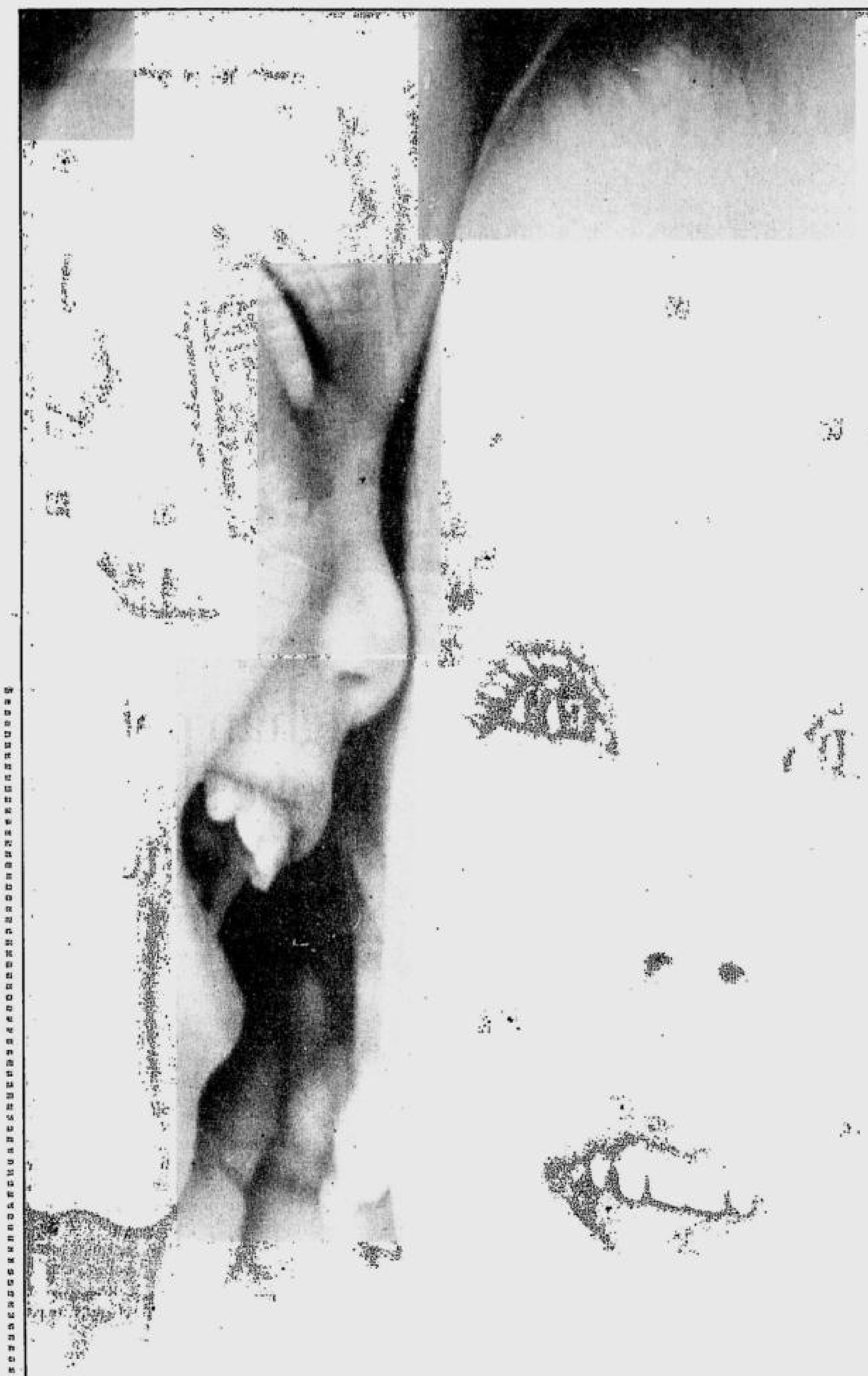

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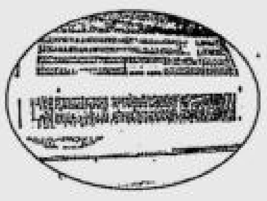

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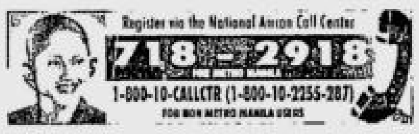

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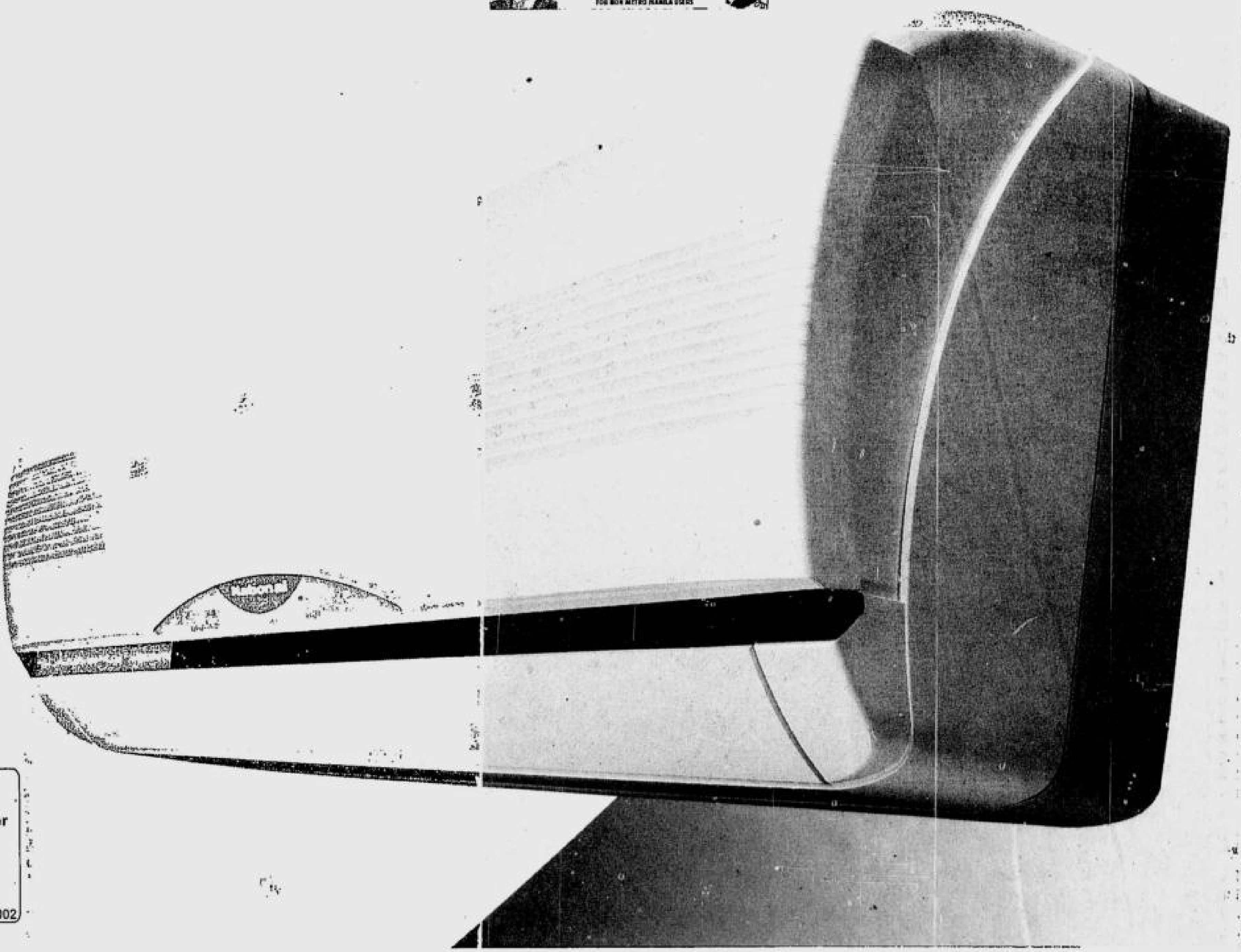

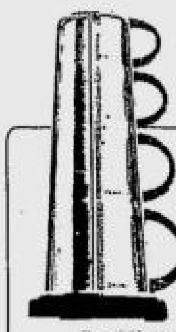

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Army troops kill rights group leader

DAVAO CITY—The deputy secretary general of human rights group Karapatan in Southern Mindanao and three of her companions were killed in what her colleagues described as a massacre perpetrated by military and para-military elements in Arakan, Cotabato on Saturday.

But the military said the death of Karapatan deputy secretary general Benjaline Hernandez, 22; Crisanto Amora, 23; Vivian Andrade, 18; and Labaon Sinunday, 30, was a result of a legitimate encounter with the New People's Army.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said elements of the 12th Special Forces were checking the reported presence of armed men in Sitio Bukatol in Barangay Kinawayan when they were fired upon.

He said the platoon-sized team, led by Staff Sgt. Antonio Torilla fired back.

"The encounter lasted for about 20 to 30 minutes," Ando told the INQUIRER.

Ando said they later learned that one of those killed in the encounter was Hernandez.

"We were even shocked to find out that Hernandez was around during the encounter because the military sighted armed groups, under the NPA's Front Committee 53, were present in the hut," Ando told the INQUIRER.

But Karapatan, in a press statement said Hernandez was conducting a month-long research on the peasant situation and on the impact of the peace process in Arakan town.

Her research also included a follow up documentation on the Tababa massacre in Arakan Valley, where three peasants were killed last year.

The group said Hernandez was leading the Tababa fact-finding mission and was working on the research with the Arakan Progressive Peasant Organization (APPO).

Bishop Felixberto Calang, chair of Karapatan, said Hernandez's body was riddled with bullets.

He said her skull was crushed, apparently by a blunt object, and that bruises were also found in her face, hands and body.

Calang, of the Philippine Independent Church, said Hernandez's chest was also burned, an indication that she was shot at close range.

He said the other victims died in the same way.

Calang said it was difficult to believe the military's version of the killings.

He said based on witnesses' account, six Cafgu members, led by Antonio Torilla, fired at the hut where Hernandez and the three victims were about to take lunch.

Calang said the attack came without any warning.

In the same press statement, Karapatan said Sinunday, a tribal member, attempted to run but was shot. He later died from gunshot wounds. ***Ayan Mellejor, Anthony Allada, Joel Escovilla and Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/10/02

ROUNDUP

From death to life

CABANATUAN CITY—The Supreme Court saved two convicts from lethal injection last week when it downgraded their case from murder to homicide and modified the death sentence imposed on them by a regional trial court here. The tribunal, in an *en banc* decision, imposed a maximum prison term of 20 years each for brothers Mario and Joey Manlansing of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. Earlier, Judge Feliciano Buenaventura found the Manlansing brothers guilty of the murder of Magin and Jorja Soriano of Barangay Bitas here on Dec. 27, 1994. Mario Manlansing claimed that he alone perpetrated the crime out of anger after Jorja Soriano told him that he would be ejected as a tenant from Sorianos' farm.
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fire hits Quezon town

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—The municipal building of General Nakar town in Quezon was razed shortly before midnight Monday. Police said the fire started at 11:30 p.m. and lasted for two hours, burning also the police station at the right side of the town hall. The damage was estimated to be worth P26 million. No one was reported hurt during the fire. Investigators are studying arson as the probable cause of the fire.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cha-cha not urgent

NAGA CITY—Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, chair of the committee on economic affairs, said here Sunday that though there is a renewed vigor in Congress to push for constitutional amendments, this is not an immediate task. Moreno said Charter change would polarize the nation and might be "a setback to unity" which is underway. He said Congress should first push measures which, he said, will help in the country's economic recovery.
Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Woman gang-raped

TABACO CITY—Local police here are tracking down four suspects who gang-raped a 21-year-old woman in San Miguel Village on Saturday. Chief Insp. Nilo Berdin, city police chief, identified the suspects as Isagani Buela, Johnny Bien, Miguel Boncay and Edcel Borbe, all residents of the village. The victim was reportedly walking home from a dance around midnight when waylaid by the suspects and dragged to a grassy place where she was allegedly raped, police said. Despite threats to her life, the victim immediately reported her ordeal to her parents who sought police help.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Discounted rice price

PILI, Camarines Sur—The National Food Authority reduced by P100 the price of locally produced rice in all Gloria Labandera Rolling Stores and other outlets on Saturday in observance of President Macapagal-Arroyo's birthday. Cesar Barcelona, NFA manager in Camarines Sur, said the NFA in Camarines Sur also made the same move through the 40 outlets of the Coconut Farmers Access Program, which made available some 2,400 bags of rice on the same day. Some 1,200 bags were initially sold for P550 per sack in 20 outlets of the Target Rice Distribution Program.
Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Black bug invasion

PILI, Camarines Sur—The Department of Agriculture regional office has installed monitoring stations in ports and some coastal areas in Masbate and Sorsogon to prevent the invasion of black bugs that have attacked rice farms in Mindanao and the Visayas. Fe Laysa, DA regional executive director, said the monitoring stations, equipped with light traps, are strategically located in the entry points from the Visayas. She said the black bugs are new pests resistant to herbicides and pesticides that attack palay by feeding on the sap. She said they are more disastrous than the brown leafhopper because a significant number of these can zap dry the whole palay plant.
Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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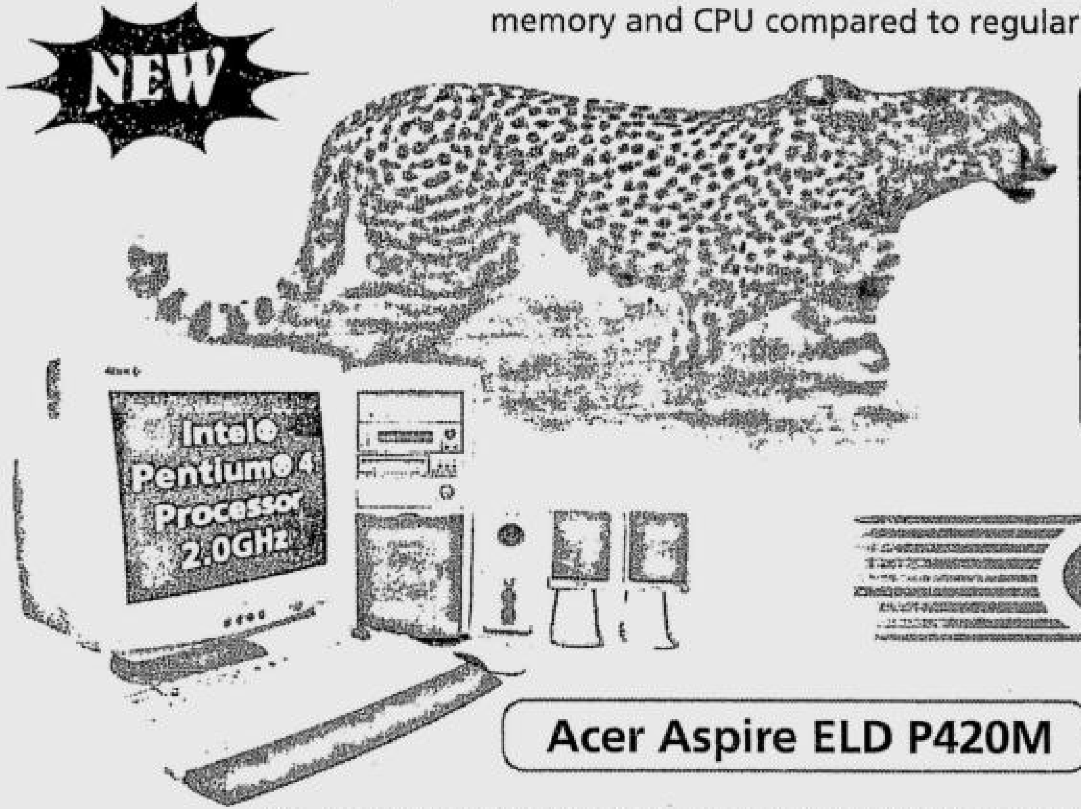


Gordon seeks 'new' Baguio in Benguet mining town

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—If Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon would have his way, he wants a "new Baguio" because the old one has all the ingredients of urban decay.

And tourism officials here are recommending the old mining town of Itogon, Benguet, some 20 km from here, as the summer capital's best replacement.

Gordon, who had persuaded Baguio Mayor Bernardo Vergara to finance a special marketing poster for the city's tourism, made known his sentiments about Baguio on Saturday when he addressed a general assembly here of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association.

"This (city) is a tragedy. What can Baguio do about itself? It should be up to the locals. Baguio should keep its charm. (But because of the urban decay) I asked (Department of Tourism Cordillera director Purificacion) Molintas, 'Where can we find a new Baguio?' Seriously, I asked her," he told former Baguio Mayor Virginia de Guia.

De Guia was lobbying on behalf of city old-timers for the conversion of Baguio into a "heritage village," to preserve the turn of the 20th century infrastructure here.

Baguio is the only city built from the ground up by the American colonial government in the early 1900s. Some of the historic colonial buildings inside Camp John Hay were already torn down to make way for log cabins and a hotel.

Molintas told the INQUIRER that an "alternative Baguio" had been a serious policy direction for Gordon because the city's weather alone remains a substantial magnet for domestic tourists.

She said she had recommended managing the urban growth of the still-forested Itogon, which is about an hour's drive away from downtown Baguio. It is located southeast of the city, and had been host to Benguet Corp., the oldest Philippine mining firm, and four other mining operations.

Itogon is mapping out an alternative development plan with the closure of the Antamok mine of Benguet Corp. a decade ago, and the imminent shutdown of the Philex Mining Corp. operation here.

The town is actually part of a metropolitan development plan developed by urban planners of the European community, after the July 1990 earthquake.

Itogon's hillside was targeted by the Baguio-Dagupan Urban Development Planning Project (BDUPP) as a suburban and water resource for a metropolitan Baguio.

GMA STATEMENT

No share in natural gas find for Palawan

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has finally answered the question of whether or not Palawan has a right to receive share from the proceeds of the Camago-Malampaya Natural Gas-to-Power Project.

In a radio interview over dzBB in Manila hooked to its sister radio station RGMA-Palawan on Monday morning, the President said the province is not entitled to a share in the gas revenue.

"There should be a 60-40 sharing if the natural gas find is within the border of Palawan but it is located outside of it . . . There would be a share but this is only out of the goodwill of the government. This is off the shore of Palawan," the President said in Filipino.

This pronouncement was in contrast to her words when she visited Palawan last June.

She said then that Palawan would be the richest province in the country and it can already benefit from its share by issuing bonds.

"Their stand is consistent: That they're not recognizing our right over the legal share," said provincial legal officer Romeo Serratubias.

Talks on the sharing, he said, were not focused on the legal basis as provided in the Local Government Code but on an agreement most advantageous to both parties.

A draft memorandum of agreement between the national government and the local government indicated that the share should be no more than 20 percent. Energy Secretary Vince Perez, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin represented the national government while Gov. Joel Reyes, Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon and Representatives Vicente Sandoval and Abraham Mitra represented the Palawan government.

This share could only be used exclusively to establish facilities to tighten security and for environmental projects.

The same agreement stated that "the natural gas project is located offshore Palawan and nearest to the province of Palawan."

Without the financial package, according to Ponce de Leon, the province will get nothing for the next seven years because service contract No. 38 between the developers and the national government says that the profit for the first seven years will go to recovering costs of exploration.

These include the construction of oil rigs, development and construction of pipelines.

The draft agreement was supposed to be signed last March 22 but it did not materialize because the province still had to consult with municipal mayors and other sectors.

In the consultation, most participants agreed to the provisions of the draft agreement provided that it does not prejudice the right of Palawan to question the legality of its share at the Supreme Court.

Others questioned the agreement because the provisions are disadvantageous to the province.

Humpback whales make a comeback

PALANAN, Isabela—Two endangered humpback whales *(Megaptera novaeangliae)* reappeared in waters off Palanan Bay last month after at least three months of absence.

The humpback whales, about 12 meters long, and at least 10 dolphins have appeared in the bay on March 21 and stayed visible to tourists and fishermen for 20 minutes.

Jack Rabi, 31, an outrigger boat operator, said the whales are rarely seen in the town's waters.

"I frequent this area and yet this is my first time, after about three months, to see the sea creatures again," Rabi said.

William Savella, Palanan community environment and natural resources officer and Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park superintendent, said information on the humpback whales are incorporated in the town's education and communication materials being distributed to residents, students and researchers.

Savella said the town would hold workshops and dialogues to increase awareness on the conservation of wildlife and marine animals in Palanan.

Humpback whales are subjects of research by the World Wildlife Fund-Philippines. In 1999, a WWFP research team discovered the presence of humpback whales at the Babuyan Channel in Cagayan.

Information gathered from the Internet showed that humpback whales are wide ranging and can be found virtually worldwide. They are seasonally migrating from polar feeding grounds to warm temperate climates to tropical breeding grounds.

Estimated at 10,000 worldwide, humpback whales are "endangered species." The healthiest populations occur in the western North Atlantic Ocean. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

VAL HANDUMON

TRADE GOES ON

Trade continues in Jolo despite the tension from recent clashes between supporters of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari and government forces. At the Jolo port, workers unload copra bound for Zamboanga.

DAVAO CITY ORDINANCE

100 arrested in anti-smoking campaign

DAVAO CITY—Police here have arrested more than 100 persons for allegedly violating the city's anti-smoking ordinance that has been strictly implemented since April 1.

Senior Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, city police chief, said criminal charges were also filed against the alleged violators.

Garcia also clarified that policemen never collected fines from the arrested offenders. He said police only arrested, booked and investigated the offenders at the police station and prepared for the proper filing of criminal charges.

He said police are leaving it up to the courts to impose the necessary penalty if the alleged offenders are proven guilty of the crime of smoking inside enclosed public buildings, eateries, restaurants, bars and in moving public utility vehicles.

He said violators can even face tougher sanctions for violating the Clean Air Act. Under the law, violators will pay a maximum fine of P10,000 for smoking where smoking is prohibited.

As this developed, the city council has amended Ordinance No. 3816 to address gray areas in the law, which hamper its effective enforcement.

The council made some changes in Sections 1-5 of the anti-smoking ordinance during a special session Wednesday.

The original ordinance exempts tourism-accredited establishments, allowing them to designate smoking areas within their premises.

But the amended ordinance would impose a total ban on smoking in restaurants, fast-food eateries, hotels, motels, lodges, inns, disco houses, bars, movie houses, public buildings, and other similar places.

Also, the council has increased the administrative fines from P100 for first offenders to P1,000; from P500 for second offenders to P3,000; and from P1,000 and/or imprisonment of 15 days for perennial offenders to P5,000 or revocation of business permits of establishment owners who allowed smoking in their places.

"Failure to pay the administrative fine included in this ordinance will subject the violators to criminal prosecution subject to the penalties in the foregoing provision and/or imprisonment of not less than six months or both at the discretion of the court," the new ordinance said.

Although the city banned smoking in public places, the selling of cigarettes continue.

Under current laws, stores are also prohibited from selling cigarettes to minors. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Bomb scare reaches Legazpi City

LEGAZPI CITY—The chief of police here has ordered his men to be on double alert after two incidents of bomb scare hit the city on Sunday and Monday morning.

The first bomb scare happened around 4 p.m., Sunday, near the house of Supt. Victor Deona, chief of the Philippine National Police regional mobile group, in EM's Barrio here, just a stone's throw from Camp Gen. Simeon Ola, Bicol police headquarters.

The second bomb was discovered on a road at the Legazpi City central market at around 1:30 a.m. Monday.

Supt. Francisco Oyami, city chief of police, said his men immediately defused the bombs.

Oyami said the planting of the first bomb was probably only a ploy since experts from the police's explosives and ordinance division did not recover any component of a real bomb that would make it explode.

He added that in the second bomb scare, authorities recovered three batteries, a timing device, blasting caps, electrical wires and black powder.

He said a patrolling police team chanced upon the bomb when a man tried to open a suspicious-looking box wrapped in a paper bag.

The policemen immediately defused it upon confirming that it was a bomb, Oyami told the INQUIRER.

He said they already have a lead on who could have planted the bomb at the central market.

Oyami added that a witness said he could identify the suspect if he sees him again.

Oyami said he has fielded investigators to hasten the investigation and identify the suspects in the two bomb scare incidents. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

GMA urged to protect Mindanao cement industry

ILIGAN CITY Mayor Franklin Quijano, once the center of industrial activity in Mindanao, has appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to overturn the "flawed and erroneous" recommendations of the Tariff Commission (TC) that denied the application by the local cement industry for safeguards against the surge of cement imports.

Quijano made the appeal in a statement after the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) disputed the conclusions of the TC in denying access to safeguards offered by the Safeguard Measures Act (RA 8800).

Trade Secretary Manuel Araneta Roxas II, in a statement released April 1 by the DTI, said the TC position was based on a "flawed framework, inconsistent inferences and erroneous methodology."

"It would be absurd that after recognizing the wrong done, government will not do anything to correct this . . . mistake that could result in the collapse of many Mindanao communities like Iligan City," Quijano said.

Iligan City is host to three local cement manufacturing plants, which have been major employers and contributors to the local economy. One plant, Mindanao Portland Corp., closed in 2000 after a surge in imports.

Quijano also expressed disappointment over a position made by academicians and economists who said that reverting the "flawed" TC recommendations would constitute "weak governance" on the part of government.

"Reverse it (the TC ruling) for the sake of Mindanao, Madame President," Quijano said in the statement. He said cement manufacturing is one of the few remaining industries in Mindanao. "If we lose the cement industry to the importers, all our efforts to bring development and peace to Mindanao will be jeopardized," he added.

According to Quijano, Mindanao already lost most of its major industries because of unrestricted imports. "The dumping of cheap and inferior Russian steel has killed our steel industry, which was the most important industrial sector for Iligan," he said.

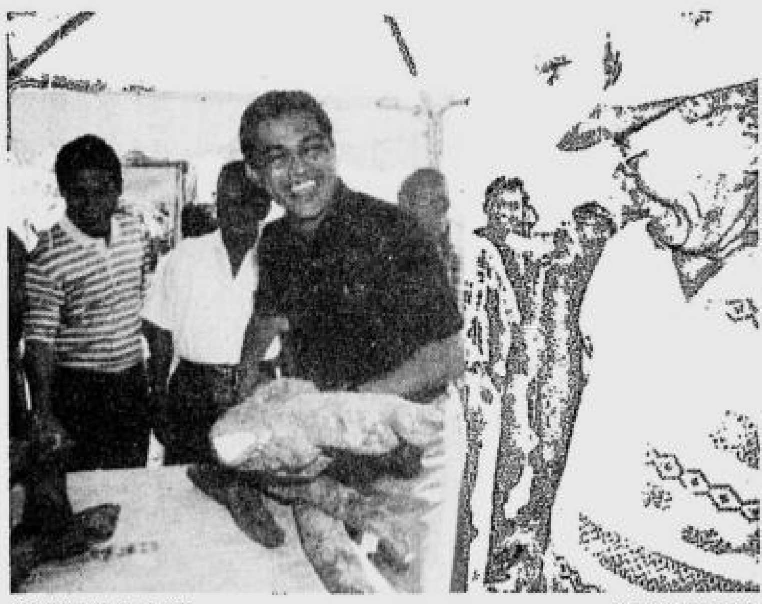


PHOTO FROM DAR

GIANT 'UBE'

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza lets out a good laugh as he sizes up a piece of *ube* root crop during a visit in Pangasinan.

Suspension of Negros co-op execs extended

BACOLOD CITY—The National Electrification Administration (NEA) has extended to another 60 days the suspension of the board of directors and the general manager of the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco).

The new order was served on April 5, two days before the expiration of the 30-day suspension of Ceneco general manager Christopher Rios and the board of directors that was imposed on March 8.

In his order, NEA administrator Francisco Silva said the suspension was extended to allow "the conduct of a thorough inquiry, unhampered by possible obstruction of proceedings."

"The extension will maintain an atmosphere of impartiality and ensure free access to material documents and witnesses without pressure, fear or influence from the suspended Ceneco officials," the new order said.

Another reason for the extension was to avoid the tampering, destruction and loss of documents.

The suspended Ceneco officials are facing investigation before the NEA Administrative Committee for alleged mismanagement of the cooperative. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

'Makabayan' new subject for public school pupils, students

PALO, Leyte—It is all systems go for the inclusion of the "Makabayan" subject in the curriculum of both elementary and secondary schools for school year 2002-2003, said Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo.

But Hidalgo told a press conference on Monday afternoon that the teaching of the Makabayan subject would be optional for private schools.

"Surprisingly, more and more private schools have expressed their intention to incorporate the subject in their curriculum," she said.

Hidalgo said the Department of Education (DepEd) has been training public school teachers on the Makabayan subject in time for the school opening in June.

For public school teachers in Eastern Visayas, their training started on Monday and would end in May.

Sol Matugas, DepEd regional director, said that close to 20,000 public school teachers participated in the training on the Makabayan subject.

"I'm optimistic that it will turn out good as we expect it (to)," she added.

Hidalgo also clarified that the Makabayan subject is not entirely new because it is just an integration of subjects that have been part of school curriculum.

In fact, she added, no new textbooks will be printed for this subject.

The Makabayan subject is subdivided into the following learning components: Araling Edukasyon Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan, Musika, Sining, Edukasyong Pangkatawan at Pangkalusugan and Edukasyon sa Pagpapahalaga.

Based on the 2002 Restructured Basic Education Curriculum, the Makabayan subject will be taught to students and pupils for 2-and-a half-hours every school day.

In contrast, the other subject matters like Science, Mathematics, English and Filipino will be taught in one hour.

Hidalgo said that with the implementation of the Makabayan subject, "we seek to raise the quality of the country's education particularly in public schools."

She also said the subject would also help instill the value of love of country in the hearts and minds of high school students and elementary grade pupils.

"We want to convey the message that the unifying theme (here) is love of country and patriotism and (awareness of one's) immediate environment," she said.

The integration of the Makabayan subject was one of the new policies that the education department is implementing following the assumption into office of former senator Raul Roco as education secretary. ***Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ● Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

They remember horrors of war, too

By Tonette Orejas
Candaba, Pampanga

SWEEPING the carpet of dry leaves that her acacia tree constantly sheds, Januaria Garcia muses on the meaning of Araw ng Kagitingan, the day that Bataan, the final battle frontier of Filipino and American soldiers, fell into enemy hands on April 9, 1942.

"It's about atrocities, Japanese military atrocities and their injustice," the 67-year-old Garcia points out.

In her village of Mapanique, a bastion of the anti-Japanese Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) established in Candaba, Pampanga, stories on the brutality that the Japanese Army inflicted on soldiers forced to march from Bataan to Tarlac abound "like rice grains stored in a big granary."

If retold by old Candaba residents, the details of the Death March are gruesome and unbearable to hear, Garcia says.

What pains Garcia is that while the courage and gallantry of Filipino and American troops are extolled by the government, the official day of remembering "forgets to remember the atrocities of Japanese soldiers."

"They have forgotten the cruelty of the Japanese," she rues.

At the Dambana ng Kagitingan atop Mt. Samat in Bataan, two marble walls honoring the "gallant men (who) chose to die rather than surrender" make no allusion to the brutality of the 14th Japanese Imperial Army.

Only the "ferocious combat between ill-equipped recruits and seasoned well armed troops" is recalled in the walls of the war memorial put up in honor of the United States Armed Forces in the Far East that included Filipino combatants.

Cruelty to civilians

To Garcia, the fall of Bataan was also just the beginning of the ordeal of Mapanique women.

"Araw ng Kagitingan stops at the recalling of the Death March, always on that. What happened after that event, especially the cruelty to civilians, particularly to us women, are never ever recalled or sought justice for," Garcia laments.

In just two years after the defense front was seized and the Japanese regime was fully established, some 800 Japanese soldiers attacked Mapanique at the crack of dawn on Nov. 23, 1944.

Troops from the 2nd Tank Division or Geki Heidan of the 14th Area Army under Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita bombed the village, herded the young and old residents to the schoolyard, killed and mutilated some men in full view of their loved ones.

After looting the village of grains and whatever resources were there in support of the Hukbalahap, the soldiers dumped the bodies of the dead and dying men inside the schoolrooms that, like the houses, were burned to the last pole.

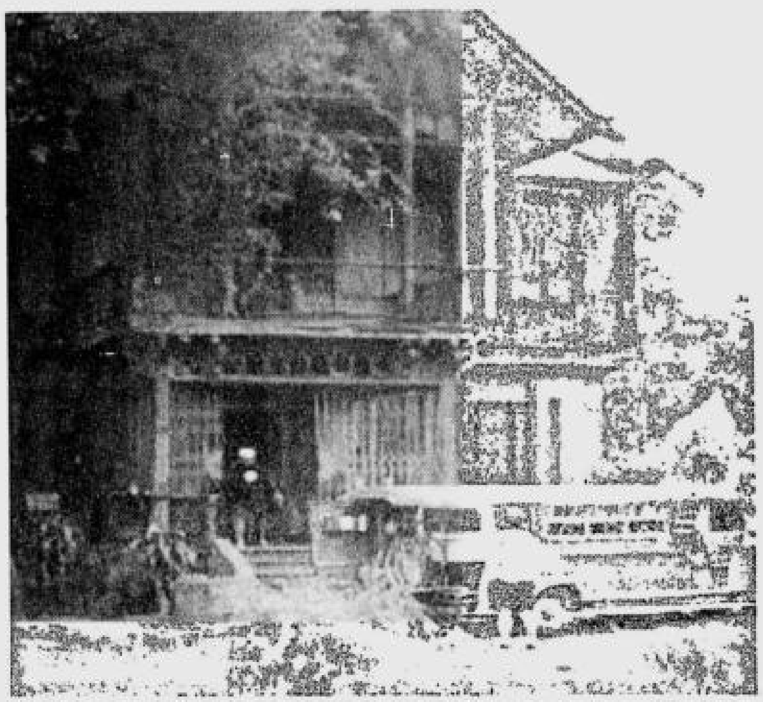
"Mapanique was a burning inferno," she recalls, her teeth gritting at the thought of the scenes of carnage and destruction.

The women and the young girls, many already weakened by fear to walk, were forced to carry the loot to the "Bahay na Pula," a Spanish mansion made of red bricks seized from the Ilusorio clan and turned into a garrison.

Located in San Ildefonso town in Bulacan, which is about 2 km from Mapanique, the mansion became not only a prison camp. It was in that house where Japanese soldiers raped the village's women and girls.

Garcia says she was barely 10 years old when Japanese soldiers repeatedly abused her. Many children, like Virginia Bangit, were raped right next to their mothers.

THE WOMEN of Mapanique who were victims of the cruelty of Japanese soldiers during the war.
PHOTOS BY TONETTE OREJAS



THE "BAHAY na Pula" in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, which the Japanese turned into a garrison and where the women of Mapanique were raped.

Garcia, in a testimony to a war crime tribunal, recalls that, "when the first soldier was done, another soldier entered the room and raped me. I felt worthless and life is worthless. I was only a child. Only the devil can do things such as these to a child."

"These Japanese soldiers are the devil's army," she adds.

Araw ng Kagitingan, according to her, must "remember everything about the war, not only chapters about male courage and sufferings."

She adds that this selective and discriminatory way of recalling inflicts more injustice on Mapanique women, cloaks in anonymity their sufferings and thus distorts history.

"We have spoken about the untold crimes and violence of Japanese soldiers. We have broken our silence to seek redress. Why can't the government openly talk about the horrors of war when it was precisely what inspired courage from both men and women, boys and children?" she asks.

Sexual slaves

Garcia says the Philippine government must recognize that chapter on the mass rape of Mapanique women and their being made sexual slaves because these incidences have sufficient archival documents.

The Asian Center for Women's Human Rights, a private institution assisting the likes of Garcia, has submitted the evidence before war tribunals immediately after 1996 when the women broke four decades of silence on the abuses.

However, Garcia says the Japanese government to this date has not heeded the Mapanique women's demand for a formal apology, a war memorial, full disclosure and immediate reparation.

It hurts her even more that the Philippine government chose not to speak about the issue or help the women seek justice.

She says that when soldiers celebrate Araw ng Kagitingan, "I shall recall and pay tribute to their bravery. But I shall cry because government does not remember the horrors of war on us women."

"It is also a day of summoning more courage because the fight for justice is not over. I long to see that beautiful day," she adds, crying over Amanda Regala, Honorata Lorenzo and several other victims who died without seeing that day of reckoning.

History, she adds, is like her acacia tree that sheds old leaves and sprouts new ones but only under diligent "*pagsisiga* (smoking)."

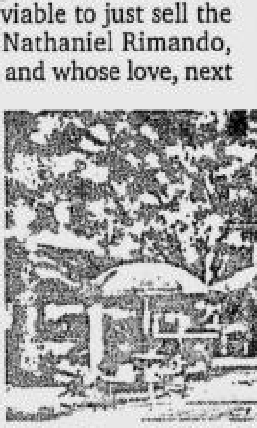
"Burning old leaves under the tree is like giving new life to it. Similarly, that's what we have been doing by refusing to be silent," Garcia says, enjoying the crackle of old leaves burning.

A formidable gathering of artists at Full Moon

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
San Fernando City

THESE days, clients could no longer make short orders at the Full Moon Art Cafe. In spite of the joint's name, the owners of the infant art gallery along California Avenue in San Fernando City have decided to stick to exhibiting and selling art works sans the other goodies often associated with bistros, due to lack of service crew.

"We couldn't keep up with the late night entertaining; it's more viable to just sell the paintings," mused Dr. Nathaniel Rimando, owner of the art gallery and whose love, next to painting and sculpture, is practicing his profession as one of the top surgeons at the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center.



FULL Moon Art Café as rendered in oil by award-winning painter Fidel Sarmiento.
PHOTO COURTESY OF FULL MOON CAFE

Rimando was referring to business partners and fellow artists Aurea Farolan and Rodel Rillera who, with him, put up the art café late last year, utilizing the gazebo at the front yard of his house.

And most often, they themselves welcomed and served their guests.

To the trio's surprise, people who spotted the unusual sign—depicting an A-house (Rimando's house, actually) against a background of a full moon—along the lonely, winding drive steadily trickled in.

Some were artists, others were friends of the owners, and still others were newcomers who were interested in local art or just looking for an off-the-road watering hole where the ambience was both stimulating and soothing.

"We were surprised at the response. The market (for art) is not yet that big, but we do know that there are people out there looking for what we have," Farolan said.

Arts awareness

Unlike neighboring Baguio City, which is known as a haven for artists, San Fernando City has been known mainly for its brisk business and trading activities, being the economic hub and seat of government of the Ilocos region.

Because of this, the art café's owners have also taken upon themselves the long-term tasks of elevating the community's awareness of the arts, tapping and honing the skills of the local artists, and developing a local market for art works, aside from supporting their favorite hobby.

Rimando knows too well that such tasks comprise not a business proposition but a mission. In 1995, after obtaining a Certificate in Fine Arts from the International Correspondence School, he helped organize the pioneering art group in the province, the Artists Guild of La Union or "Aglaun."

The art café was once used as a gallery by the guild which was closed down after creating a brief spark, Rimando recalled.

"We have been holding visual art workshops and we would like to go into theater arts soon," Farolan, a self-taught artist with a background in fine arts and interior design, said.

She said the gallery also hosts exhibits by artists from Manila in order for the local artists "to gain exposure and learn from them."

But she said she makes it a point to inform the exhibitors "to adjust their price" to the local market.

On March 23, the Full Moon Art Cafe hosted yet its biggest exhibit since its reopening, with 20 artists participating. Dubbed "Lakbay Sining sa La Union," the exhibit was organized in cooperation with the Art Association of the Philippines.

It featured the works of award-winning artists Fidel Sarmiento, painting; Buds Convocar, mixed media; Fred Liongoren; Ral Arrogante, sculpture; Roger Santos, painting; Carlota Contreras, sculpture; Danny Santiago, painting; Santos Paco, sculpture; Caloy Gabuco, painting; Aner Sebastian, painting; Ronald Ruiz, painting; Fred Ramirez, painting; Rodel Peña; and Wilfredo Offemaria.

It also featured the works of Romie Gutierrez, Tessa Cornez, Aris Bagtas and Full Moon's Rimando, Farolan and Rillera.

With this formidable gathering of artists, Rimando and company hope to "stretch the boundaries of our sanity and imagination," as many are said to do on the night of a full moon.

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Pope: Holy Land violence 'intolerable'

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saster happens," Fr. David Jaeger, spokesperson for custodians of Catholic sites in the Holy Land, said in Rome. Israeli forces have surrounded the Bethlehem church, located at the site traditionally identified as Jesus Christ's birthplace, since a week ago.

In the statement issued by the Apostolic Nunciature, the Pope declared an "unequivocal condemnation of terrorism" and called on both Israelis and Palestinians to protect the "sacred places" in the Holy Land. It is "the duty for parties in conflict to protect the sacred places, (which are) very significant for the three monotheistic religions and the patrimony of all humanity." The Middle East is the birthplace of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Palestinian humiliation

The Pope also expressed "disapproval of the conditions of injustice and humiliation imposed on the Palestinian people, as well as reprisals and retaliation, which only make the sense of frustration and hatred grow." He also urged that the United Nations resolutions—the last of which calls for an immediate Israeli pullout from all Palestinian cities—be respected "by all sides."

The Vatican statement there was a "worrying deterioration of the situation in the Holy Land and numerous appeals for aid" had reached the Pope "from all sides."

It emphasized that the Pope had already "authoritatively expressed" his position in various meetings relative to the crisis in the Middle East. The Vatican assured that its "Secretariat of State as well as the pontifical representation in Jerusalem have been in contact with the parties concerned." In these meetings, the statement said that the Pope's representatives had made it clear that the Holy See sees the "necessity to put an end to indiscriminate acts of terrorism" and that he is in "complete solidarity in this painful moment" with all those affected by the crisis.

The statement was released to the media by James Reuter, S.J. of the National Office of Mass Media, the media unit of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). Reuter, secretary general of the CBCP's Commission on Social Communication and Mass Media, said the Pope "speaks as head of the Vatican state, a tiny, but independent nation, respected by the United Nations, and of deep influence all around the world."

"He knows that he has no positive authority, and certainly no military power, in this crisis," Reuter said. "But his carefully considered opinion, which becomes the official position of the Catholic Church all over the world, really carries some weight, even with the conflicting parties."

Strained relations

Christian leaders called on Israel to leave Bethlehem after a gun battle and fire erupted Monday, further straining delicate relations between Israel and the Vatican.

The Vatican said it was following the situation with "extreme apprehension," and trying to verify what happened. But it also reminded Israel of a 1993 pledge not to interfere at holy places and warned it was hearing information that, if true, "would lead to the aggravation of an already dramatic situation."

Relations between the Vatican and Israel, formalized only in 1993, long have been sensitive, largely because of differences over Pope Pius XII's role during the Holocaust and over the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Critics of Pius XII maintain he failed to speak out and use his position to protect European Jews from the Nazis. The Vatican, which plans to beatify Pius and put him on the path to sainthood, maintains he used discreet diplomacy to try to help Jews.

Leaders of other Christian denominations in the Holy Land have supported the Franciscans' position about the Church of the Nativity, issuing a statement urging Israeli forces to "go in peace" from Bethlehem. Churches across Bethlehem and neighboring cities of Beit Jala and Beit Sahour simultaneously pealed tones usually reserved only for Christmas in a call for peace—a call that is to ring out daily until the troops withdraw.

Some church officials, including a Franciscan friar who briefed senior Vatican officials on the situation, were less diplomatic, angrily accusing Israel of provoking the unprecedented violence around one of Christianity's holiest shrines. After the fighting, members of the Franciscan order who had been working for a peaceful solution to the standoff condemned what they said was an Israeli assault.

A Catholic missionary news agency in Rome quoted the Rev. Giovanni Battistelli, the Franciscan's top representative in the Holy Land, as refuting the Israeli version of events: "Nobody opened fire from inside the basilica compound. It was an attack carried out by Israeli forces."

"We are afraid. We feel that the whole world has abandoned us," Fr. Ibrahim Faltas, one of the Franciscans holed inside the Bethlehem church, told Italian television by telephone. ***With reports from Reuters, AP***

No retreat in Bethlehem, says Sharon

NO RETREAT.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is under growing United States and international pressure to immediately pull out of West Bank Palestinian cities, told parliament Monday that soldiers would surround the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem until some 200 Palestinian gunmen inside it surrender.

"Since it is not our aim to desecrate the sanctity of the place, as the murderers who took control of the spot and took the clerics hostage are doing, we expect the international community to demand that they lay down their arms and leave the holy place," Sharon told parliament. "Until then, the (Israeli army) will remain in position."

Franciscans, who deny the 60 clergymen in the church compound were hostages, said the clerics will remain in place throughout the standoff.

Israel's Foreign Ministry tried to ease the growing anxiety of not only Roman Catholic leaders in Jerusalem but also those of other Christian denominations, meeting privately with them Monday evening.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Yaffa Ben-Ari said Israel initiated the meeting to "find ways to alleviate the pressures of the situation."

She said church leaders asked Israel not to take any actions that would further harm the church and that Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior "expressed the promise to make sure we will keep the sanctity of life and church."

Rabbi David Rosen, director of inter-religious affairs at the American Jewish Committee, said the situation is serious and he expects the Vatican is frustrated but that the threat of the church standoff undermining relations appears worse than it is. ***AP***

SHARON: Let them leave holy place.

Jerusalem church leaders appeal: End bloodshed

BETHLEHEM—Jerusalem church leaders Monday appealed for an end to the bloodshed in Bethlehem, where Israeli forces have besieged the Church of the Nativity and 200 Palestinian gunmen inside for a week.

"No more bloodshed in Bethlehem. Even this morning (Monday), blood was spilled. We reject all bloodshed, Israeli or Palestinian," a statement said.

"Never again bloodshed in Bethlehem."

"We call upon the Israeli authorities to pull out all of their weapons, to move towards peace, and to return with their soldiers to their families," the statement said.

It called on all faithful of the Bethlehem churches and neighboring towns of Beit Jala and Beit Sakhur, along with all parishes in the Holy Land, to ring their Christmas bells every day at 3:00 p.m. (1200 GMT or 8 p.m. Manila time) "until the end of this war," the statement concluded.

Israel accuses the fighters of holding the priests hostage inside the church and its neighboring convents, a charge repeatedly denied by the clerics.

There is a practically continuous curfew in the town. ***AFP***

Israel pulls back forces but new assault reported

From page A1

ties, and (he) expects all parties to step up to them," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

Bush had called on Israel to end its massive 12-day offensive in the West Bank and start redeploying its troops immediately.

Initially, some Israeli officials said the offensive—dubbed "Operation Defensive Shield"—might last eight weeks. Israel has yet to say when forces will leave several of the West Bank's biggest cities, including Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin and Bethlehem.

The movements early Tuesday suggest that Israel is trying to appease the United States, while at the same time forging ahead with a plan to thoroughly search for Palestinian militants and weapons involved in a recent series of suicide bombings and other attacks in Israel.

A standoff continued in Bethlehem, where Palestinian gunmen were holed up in one of Christianity's most sacred sites, the Church of the Nativity built over the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

Fighting has also raged in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, and in nearby Jenin, where helicopters fired missiles at a refugee camp on Monday.

Israeli officials have estimated that more than 100 Palestinians have been killed in the camp in recent days.

The military said Tuesday that it had found 16 bomb-making laboratories in Nablus.

Brig. Gen. Eyal Shline, an Israeli commander in the area, said that the armed men "seem to have decided to fight to the last, to make the battle as bloody as possible," and that a number blew themselves up in suicide attacks.

Sharon

Addressing a special session of Parliament on Monday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Israel's massive assault was a response to a "murderous insanity which has taken hold of our Palestinian neighbors."

He also accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of leading a "regime of terror" that Israel would dismantle.

Sharon said that after the military operation was over, Israeli forces would withdraw to unspecified buffer zones in the West Bank. He added that "the places we leave must have a responsible Palestinian leadership that will take over the areas."

He appeared to be suggesting that he would only do business with Palestinians not affiliated with the Palestinian Authority.

The comments angered Palestinians. Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said that Sharon's "endgame all along was to dismantle the Palestinian Authority," and that Israel would not find Palestinians to agree to such a plan.

Israeli forces swept into Qalqiliya and Tulkarem about a week ago at the beginning of the offensive that quickly put most of the West Bank's major population centers under Israel's control.

The soldiers met with little resistance in Qalqiliya and Tulkarem, unlike in other cities where fighting has been raging.

A statement issued by Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer Monday night said the departing troops would maintain a cordon around Tulkarem and Qalqiliya.

Ben-Eliezer said the operation was a success and "dealt a heavy blow to the terrorist infrastructure" in the cities.

More than 1,500 Palestinians have been arrested by Israel since the offensive began March 29, including 500-600 fugitives among whom were 70-80 involved in planning attacks on Israelis, according to Israeli military officials.

Powell

Later this week, Powell plans to arrive in Israel on a peacemaking mission.

Ahead of his trip, US envoy Anthony Zinni met with Sharon, and US officials said he restated demands for an immediate withdrawal.

There was a widespread feeling in Israel that the timing of Powell's trip and some wording used by US officials suggested an acquiescence with continuing the offensive for a few more days.

Despite putting pressure on Sharon, the United States rebuffed an Arab request for yet another UN Security Council resolution Monday as diplomats in New York voiced frustration at Israel's failure to withdraw from the West Bank.

"Now is the time for leadership on the ground and in the region. We do not need any more resolutions, we need full implementation of the existing ones," said the US ambassador to the United Nations, John Negroponte.

The magnitude of the task facing Powell was highlighted in Casablanca when Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah told him Israel's continued military operations were doing serious damage to the United States' standing among the Arabs.

"American credibility and prestige are collapsing very quickly," foreign policy adviser Adel al-Jubeir quoted the prince as saying.

A senior Arab official said the crown prince had also set three conditions for Saudi assistance in the peace mission: a complete Israeli withdrawal, Israel's reconstruction of destroyed Palestinian infrastructure, and US monitors.

Powell also listened to a surprisingly blunt question from Moroccan King Mohammed that gave official voice to widespread speculation in the Arab world that his not traveling to Jerusalem until Friday was giving Sharon a free hand.

"Don't you think it would be more important to go to Jerusalem first?" the king asked Powell as television cameras rolled when they shook hands at a pre-meeting photo opportunity.

Powell explained later that "just to show up in Jerusalem without a concept in mind, without having coordinated all of the various parties . . . would (not) have been the way to go about it."

He leaves Tuesday for Egypt. He will travel on to Spain and Jordan before arriving in Israel. ***Reports from AP, AFP***

Red Crescent warns of epidemic

RAMALLAH—Israel's military offensive in the West Bank has created a "critical" health situation that can develop into an epidemic, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said Monday.

"The humanitarian situation is critical," the agency's emergency response coordinator, Hossam Sharkawi, told Agence France Presse. "Our ambulances are working only at 10-20 percent of capacity. In most cases, we can't respond."

Sharkawi said "one of the key concerns is public health." He said the situation had "the makings of an epidemic."

"We are worried about measles and cholera," he said, noting the lack of clean water and the growing amount of garbage in the six cities reoccupied by Israeli forces.

The Red Crescent Society, the Muslim equivalent of the Red Cross, said it had counted 166 Palestinian deaths since Israel launched its military offensive on March 29. Of the number of deaths, 47 occurred in Nablus where heavy fighting has raged for the past several days.

Sharkawi said the agency's death toll was still smaller than one given by the Israeli army because the gun battles were making it impossible to go into several of the areas, notably Jenin, where the fighting had also been intense.

"Our key concerns are Nablus, Jenin and Ramallah," he said. "The major problem is getting to people."

He cited the cases of a woman in labor and a man suffering a heart attack, who both died yesterday in Ramallah without ambulances being able to reach them.

He said medics had only just received information about two Palestinians who were shot and killed in the city about 10 days ago and whose bodies had been lying outside since then.

Sharkawi also said the 24 hospitals in the West Bank were running out of water, oxygen, blood, and sterile syringes, as well as gasoline to run their generators.

Every call by a Red Crescent ambulance requires prior authorization from the army, something that can take 24 hours to secure, he said, adding: "And each time it's very risky." ***AFP***

Let Pinay maids do the work

From page A1

bed. She doesn't clean her room, iron her private-school uniforms or straighten her 50 pairs of shoes.

Oh says she can't perform basic domestic duties and has never held an after-school or summer job.

"It's true, I can't do anything," she says while whiling away the time in one of Singapore's air-conditioned havens for teen consumers.

This attitude among Singapore's first generation born into widespread wealth is causing public hand wringing by parents and government officials.

The government-linked Straits Times newspaper printed an article titled "The Instant-Noodle Generation," featuring a survey of 104 Singaporean teens. When asked how dependent they were on maids, most rated themselves about a 7 out of 10—with 10 being completely dependent.

Now, a new government task force called "Remaking Singapore" has begun studying how to spur Singaporeans beyond the "five Cs" of Singapore life: cars, clubs, careers, condos and credit cards.

Nowadays, one in every seven families has a foreign maid, according to Singapore's Ministry of Manpower. Some, like Oh's family of eight, have several maids to watch the kids and fend off the rot and mold endemic in this tropical climate.

Singapore's young people are probably no more coddled than their counterparts in other wealthy countries. The difference is that in Singapore—a nation going from Third World to First World in a single generation—spoiled youths have popped up on the radar screen of the country's control-obsessed leaders, who demand a say in everything from dating to the courteous use of mobile phones.

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong recently railed against children who "grew up with a silver spoon in their mouth, a maid at their beck and call, and a car to bring them around." Singaporean youth, he said, must "rediscover some of the self-reliant spirit of earlier generations."

Only three decades ago, Singapore's national survival seemed unlikely after it broke away from an ill-fated, two-year merger with neighboring Malaysia. The country was a slum-ridden, malaria-infested backwater with few natural resources, no armed forces and hostile neighbors.

Enter Lee Kuan Yew and his ardent followers in the People's Action Party, which has dominated Singapore politics since independence in 1965.

Only one real resource

Under Lee's firm rule, Singapore, whose only true resource was its position astride one of the world's busiest shipping routes, quickly evolved into a regional transportation, business and financial hub.

Per capita gross domestic product among the country's 4 million inhabitants has increased about 40-fold since independence to US$20,732 in 2001, according to government figures, ranking it among the highest in the world.

Homelessness and hunger have been replaced by Hermes and Harrods.

This consumerism is on display along Singapore's famed Orchard Road, which rivals Paris' Place Vendome, Tokyo's Ginza or New York's Madison Avenue for luxe products.

Also lining Orchard Road are plazas devoted entirely to teenagers.

They're crammed with food courts, video arcades and even spas, like the Beauty Express hair and nail salon in the five-story mall where Oh and her friends waited to see a Hollywood blockbuster, "Bandits."

The girls chat on mobile phones and ride the escalators between floors designed as movie sets. They cruise arcades with fancy wireless interactive games played on high-tech gadgets. Kids in the latest fashions linger in front of the complex, some blowing smoke rings.

Reward for hard work

But many say these youngsters are a byproduct of Singapore's driven society. While they may lead easy lifestyles, that doesn't mean they're not also industrious, particularly in their studies, says 25-year-old Chong Tze Chien, creator of "Spoilt," a play about a Prada-shod Singaporean woman tormented by an existential void.

"Sure kids are spoiled. But the word has a double meaning. Kids work very hard in school—but then they're rewarded. And they end up pampered," he says.

Some say spoiled children are partially a product of Singapore's paternalistic state apparatus.

But that's not the whole story, Chong says.

"We're taught to have more, that more is good," he says. "We know it's wrong, but we can't pull ourselves away from it. It's like a drug." ***AP***

SCHOOLGIRL Kalliste Oh, 15, speaks on her cell phone while waiting for friends to withdraw money from cash machines at a Singapore shopping mall. Singapore's government and parents have expressed concern that the nation's youth are pampered and need to become more self reliant.

AP

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'Money changed hands' in Pierantoni's release

From page A1

out Pierantoni after allegedly paying Marohombsar, who was arrested in a Quiapo motel in Manila by agents of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) the following month.

Another payment was made days before Pierantoni was freed in Tungawan town on Monday, according to a police intelligence officer.

He said a high-ranking police official paid P12 million in exchange for Pierantoni's freedom. The intelligence officer, who was part of the negotiating team, said the payoff was done in Pagadian City.

The source confirmed that ransom was paid in Cotabato City in January, but the negotiators failed to bring back the Italian priest.

The intelligence officer said the Catholic Church had nothing to do with the ransom payment. "(It) has nothing to give and I don't think Church officials have any idea of the ransom being paid," he said.

The source disclosed that some mayors in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur raised the money since their towns were beneficiaries of projects financed by the Italian government.

A source from the Catholic Church said Pierantoni's release was the post-birthday gift of Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on special concerns, to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who celebrated her 55th birthday on April 5.

"That's the forte of Gonzales," a military officer said, referring to Gonzales' role in the release of other kidnap victims in the past.

The military officer cited the release of two Chinese nationals who were kidnapped in Central Mindanao last year as a concrete example "of Gonzales' work."

But he said the President was "not aware" that ransom was paid.

Private groups

In Manila, Gonzales swore that the government did not allow ransom payment. But he did not deny that groups other than the government could have tried to pay ransom.

"You can't prevent private individuals (from trying to pay ransom)," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Gonzales said the Italian priest's release was the culmination of a "long police operation."

"I played a minor, minor role. But I'm very sure there was no ransom," he said. "I'm sure of that (because) if there's any rule I have it's to see to it that there's no ransom. The President's orders are very specific," said the presidential adviser whose area of concentration is Muslim Mindanao.

DENNIS SABANGAN

WELCOME back, Father "Beppe." Supporters from Zamboanga rush to embrace Father Pierantoni in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Reports say he is actively assisting the Moro National Liberation Front led by Parouk Hussin, governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Asked if he reached out to the kidnappers, Gonzales said: "Of course. We have been talking to all sorts of organizations. Then finally the police succeeded."

"But it has nothing to do with ransom payment. Maybe there were groups who cooperated with the police," Gonzales said.

He said that he was not aware of the details of Pierantoni's release because he had been abroad and that he only returned on Sunday night. But he said he was aware that Pierantoni would be finally released.

"I am aware that there's a police operation. I'm also aware of the general time of the release," he said.

He said they had expected Pierantoni to be released several times. It was Gonzales who brought Pierantoni to Manila on a private jet on Monday.

Tiglao, too

Like Gonzales, Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said the Pentagon gang released the Italian priest due to pressure from government forces.

"What happened is that the Pentagon was pressured to release (Pierantoni). It did not mean that ransom was paid," Tiglao said before a Cabinet meeting in Limay, Bataan.

He said about 15 Pentagon members were killed in several encounters the past weeks.

"I think we should just be happy that we have recovered Pierantoni. This is a big event. Even Pierantoni is thankful for our handling of that crisis," Tiglao said.

As expected, the Philippine National Police also said that money did not change hands.

"There was no ransom. The sacrifices of our policemen there are being overshadowed (by the ransom issue)," Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina said.

Espina, the PNP spokesperson, said paying ransom would only embolden other lawless elements to engage in kidnapping.

Espina has an explanation for the presence of an ambulance on a highway where Pierantoni was turned over to the negotiators.

The PNP spokesperson said the ambulance was part of a convoy of vehicles that brought policemen to the area.

"The ambulance was a little far off. It was driven closer when everything was okay," Espina said in Taglish in a telephone interview.

He said a force was created when government units received information that the Pentagon group was holding Pierantoni in Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay. Members of the PNP Special Action Force and policemen from Regional Command 9 were tapped for the operation. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

Pagadian bishop: 'No encounter, no gunfight'

From page A1

in Tungawan town in Zamboanga Sibugay province.

Asked by GMA 7's "Saksi" in Manila on Monday if he was rescued, Pierantoni said, "No. (It was) a deliberate hand-over of me to the negotiators."

But President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier said in Malacañang that the Italian priest was rescued after "a fierce battle in the mountains of Mindanao."

Tungawan Mayor Arsenio Climaco told the INQUIRER that they were not aware of the police operation to rescue Pierantoni.

The INQUIRER along with Climaco visited Barangay Lower Tungawan, where residents claimed that they had no knowledge of the rescue operation.

"That's why we were surprised to hear that Pierantoni was rescued in our municipality," Climaco said. The operation was kept from local police and military officials.

"The conflicting statements of the people claiming credit for his release give me the feeling that we are not being told the real story," Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said in a statement.

The opposition congressman said the release of Pierantoni bolstered suspicions that the PNP colluded with the Pentagon gang.

Remulla, a former broadcast journalist, said it appeared that even the President was given "inaccurate reports" about how Pierantoni gained his freedom.

Remulla said the PNP leadership under Director General Leandro Mendoza tried to grab the credit by saying that the Pentagon gang abandoned Pierantoni at the boundary of Zamboanga del Sur and Sibugay province to elude pursuing PNP Special Action Forces.

"I am more inclined to believe Father Pierantoni's story and this seems to provide a confirmation to previous reports that there is some kind of collaboration between some PNP officials and some members of the Pentagon gang," he said.

Remulla recalled that alleged Pentagon leader Faizal Marohombsar revealed several months ago that some PNP officials were in cahoots with the kidnap gang and that some Malacañang officials were brokering the release of the priest.

Remulla, an assistant minority leader, urged the House committee on public order and security to investigate the incident so that the PNP "can fully account for its actions."

"We should find out the truth about all these," he said.

Director Reynaldo Velasco, director for PNP comptroller and deputy chief of the anti-kidnap Task Force Mindanao, and Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, Western Mindanao police chief, reportedly led the group that recovered Pierantoni.

Jimenez said the kidnappers kept the Italian priest mostly in Tungawan during his six-month captivity and was only moved the day he was released.

"He said there was no movement during his captivity," Jimenez said.

Pierantoni, a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Order, was assistant parish priest of Dimatalang, Zamboanga del Sur when he was kidnapped on Oct. 17.

Commend, not castigate

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, said the men responsible for the safe recovery of the Italian priest should be commended and not castigated.

"All throughout (Pierantoni's captivity) the PNP and AFP personnel were on the back of the kidnappers," he said.

"The fighting was not only in one place, like in the movies, because there was continuous pressure," Villanueva said in an interview at the Araw ng Kagitingan rites at Mt. Samat in Pilar, Bataan.

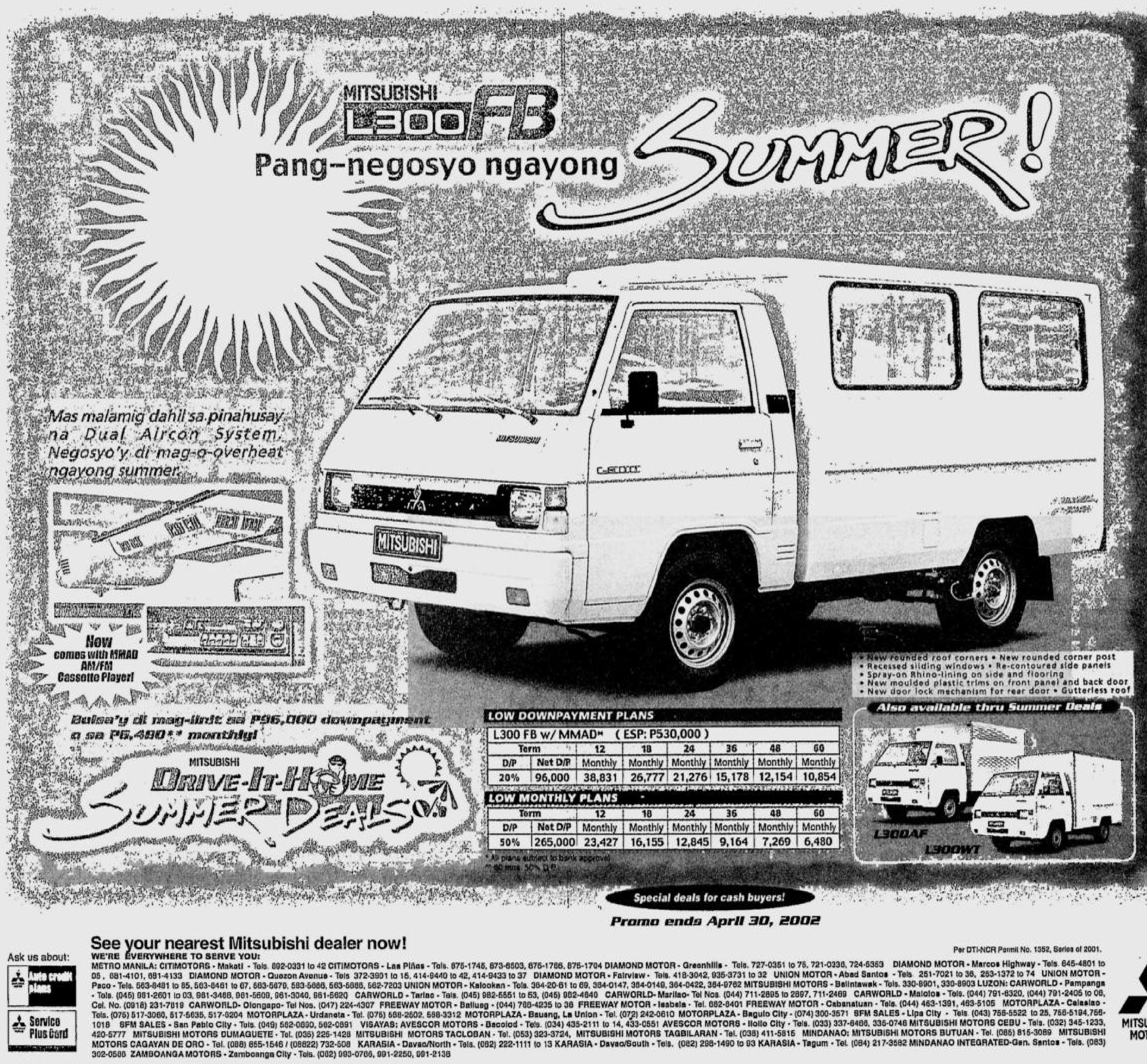
Return to parish

Jimenez said he saw no problem with Pierantoni's plan to go back to his flock in Zamboanga del Sur.

"He is much welcome. It is up to his congregation to see whether (Pierantoni's plan) is viable," he said.

Jimenez said Pierantoni was never known to be a "threat" to anybody while doing his pastoral work like promoting Church-based health programs involving Christians, Muslims and Subanen tribes.

The bishop noted that Christians and Muslims were living peacefully in the area until the Italian priest's kidnapping. ***With reports from Juliet L. Javellana in Manila; and, Hernan P. dela Cruz and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***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ASIAD CONTINGENT

Reyes quits; 4 wrestlers named

REYES

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SEA Games triple gold medalist gymnast Pia Adelle Reyes has quit the national team while four wrestlers have been named to the Asian Games contingent, the Asiad Task Force said yesterday.

Asiad chief of mission Tom Carrasco said there are 139 athletes thus far qualified for the Busan Games in September.

"At the rate things are going, we would probably be sending very few athletes, from 150 to 160," said Carrasco. "The criteria are strict but we have to implement it."

Carrasco said Reyes, who is turning 18 this year, quit to pursue an academic scholarship grant in the United States. He named the wrestlers as Francis Villanueva, Marciano Basas, John Esteban and Jimmy Angan.

Villanueva won a gold medal each in the greco-roman and freestyle and Basas a silver in greco-roman and a gold in freestyle in a recent Thai qualifer. Esteban and Angan each snared two silver medals in two categories.

Meanwhile, at least 10 national sports associations offered to help the Milo Invitational athletics championships-Gov. Jose Sering Cup set May 1-4 at the Rizal Memorial track oval.

Led by tennis association president Buddy Andrada, the NSA heads vowed to make their own contributions "to ensure the success of the event."

Aside from Andrada, those who pledged help were chess' Florencio Campomanes, taekwondo's Robert Aventajado, pencak silat's Sultan Jamalul Kiram III, weightlifting's Rep. Monico Puentevella, sepak takraw's Mario Tanchangco, judo's Reynaldo Jaylo, karatedo's Ed Ponce, basketball's Tiny Literal and billiards' Bong Ilagan. Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok said the tribute will be on May 3.

"We can't allow Mr. Go to take all the credit in honoring a beloved man like Gov. Sering. We would like to make the Gov. Sering Cup not only a track and field event but also a major event for Asian sports," said Andrada.

Patafa seminar

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Track and Field Association will hold a seminar on officiating on April 15-17 at the Rizal Memorial Track-Football Stadium. The event is aimed at providing aspiring officials the latest techniques in officiating in connection with the coming Milo National Open–Gov. Jose Sering Memorial Cup scheduled on May 1-4. Call 5221451 or 5252854 for details.

Gems outlast Eagles, 107-103

GAMES TODAY
(San Fabian Gym, Pangasinan)
6 p.m.—Cagayan de Oro vs Pangasinan
(St. La Salle Bacolod)
6 p.m.—Davao vs Negros

CEBUANA Lhuillier coach Francis Rodriguez can now heave a sigh of relief. He has fulfilled his promise to steer the Gems to victories in their first two home games in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Conference.

The Gems again flirted with disaster before pulling off a 107-103 victory over the Professional Davao Eagles Monday night at the packed Cebu City Coliseum.

It was the second hard-earned win for the Gems, who had to go through overtime before subduing the Osaka Pangasinan Waves, 109-99, in the inaugurals on Saturday.

Bruce Dacia, Chris de Jesus and Jercules Tangkay scored a basket each as the Gems overcame a 103-101 deficit in the homestretch.

"We're okay now. The boys are slowly adapting to my system," said Rodriguez. "We've accomplished our first goal of winning our first two home games."

The Gems, behind the guns of De Jesus, actually stormed ahead at 101-93 with three minutes to go, but the Eagles countered with a 10-point blast to regain the lead.

Dacia finished with 23 points and got ample support from De Jesus with 18, Egay Echavez 15, Tangkay 14 and Jessie Lumantas 13.

Ateneo eyes 2nd win vs Shark 5

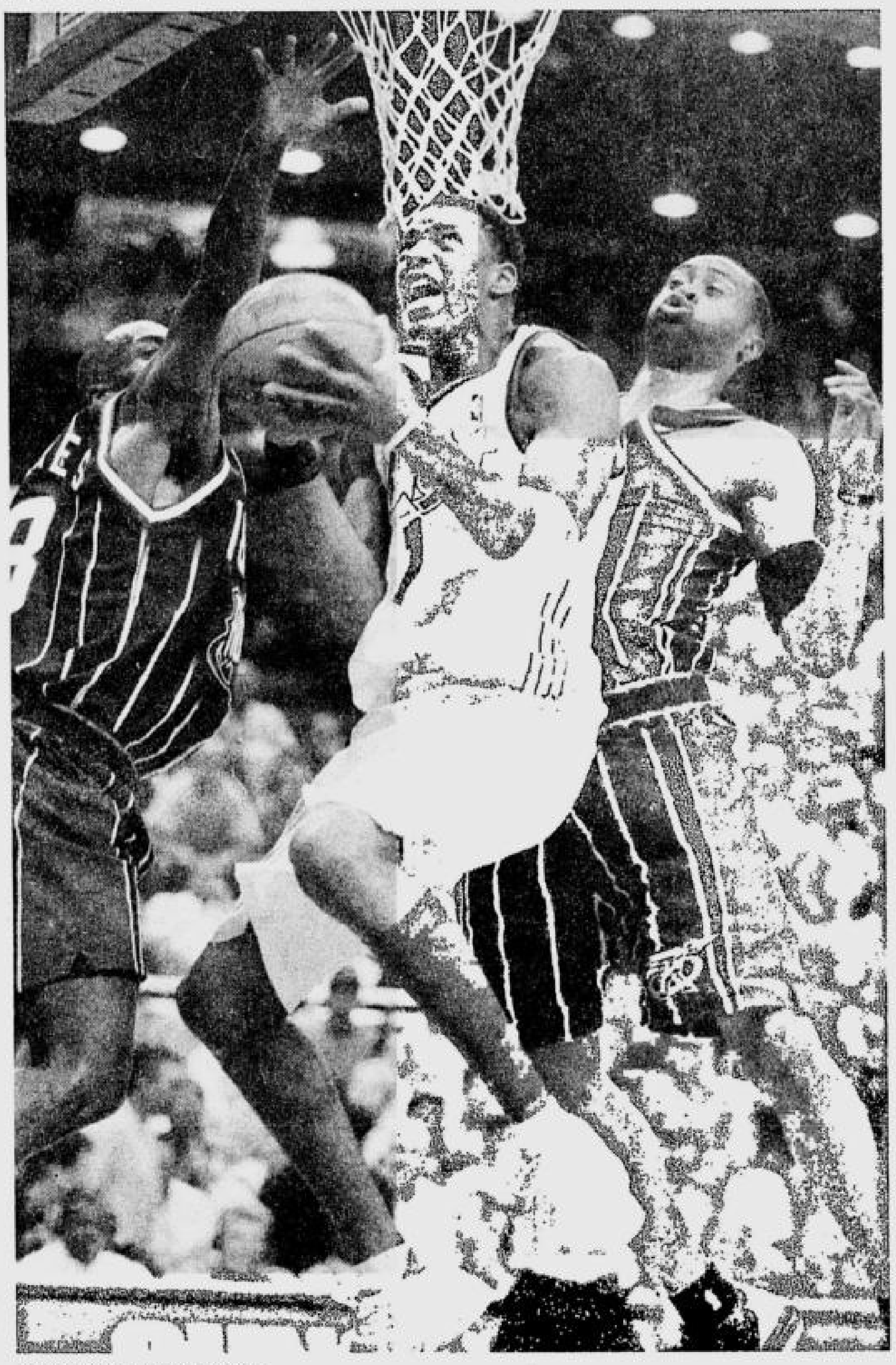
GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Shark vs Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation
6 p.m.—Montaña Jewels vs Ana Freezers

TO force a three-way tie for the lead, Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation needs to hurdle Challenge Cup champion Shark Energy Drink in today's PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Ateneo debuted with a 74-66 victory over Montaña Jewels in overtime on April 5 that saw Shark lose to Kutitap, 69-73, also in overtime.

The Shark-Ateneo encounter is set at 4 p.m., followed by the Ana Freezers-Montaña Jewels clash at 6 p.m. Ana will try to end a two-game losing streak against the Jewels.

Fil-Am Jeffrey Anicete combined nicely with Ateneo regulars Wesley Gonzales, Magnum Membrere and Larry Fonacier to score their first win.


MAGICAL MCGRADY
Orlando Magic's Tracy McGrady (center) soars to the basket against the Houston Rockets' Oscar Torres (left) and Kenny Thomas during their NBA first quarter action yesterday in Orlando, Florida. Orlando won, 83-74. In another game, Detroit beat Atlanta, 105-99, to win the Central Division title. OTHER RESULTS: Cleveland 111, Indiana 99; Chicago 105, Boston 100; San Antonio 99, Portland 87; Dallas 105, Utah 96; Seattle 102, L.A. Clippers 100; Minnesota 100, Golden State 93.
AP

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro
By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Precious Time 2. Ikaw/Happy Return 3. Show Money 4. Premiere Event

Race 2—1. Prince of Africa 2. Romario 3. Gold Marlin 4. Diligence

Race 3—1. Praetorian 2. Cutting Edge 3. Free Rein 4. Wings to Fly

Race 4—1. Hollywood Park 2. Dixie Dancer

Race 5—1. Classic Model 2. Gossip Column 3. Never Quit 4. Jackpot

Race 6—1. Overland 2. Opening Prospect 3. Hello Paul 4. Ayra's Pet 5. Flying Indy 6. Classic Star

Race 7—1. Race for Gold 2. Cool Under Fire 3. Real Material 4. Native Talent 5. Sunny Sky

Race 8—1. Santa Fe 2. Flashy Girl 3. Perry's Will

Race 9—1. Golden Brook 2. Time Specialist 3. Irish Diplomat 4. Armee's Hope 5. Valiant Queen 6. Kokoro

Asian Festival of Speed slated

AS many as 25 talented drivers from 10 countries are expected to see action in the first two rounds of the "Asian Festival of Speed" scheduled April 13-14 at the newly upgraded Subic International Raceway.

An annual undertaking of Motorsports Asia Ltd. (Malaysia) in cooperation with the Sports Values Inc. (SVI) and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), the event is considered the biggest motorsports event in the country this summer.

"This is surely one of the most prestigious motorsports competitions in the country this year with some of the best drivers in the region in attendance," said SVI president Pocholo Ramirez.

The Philippines will be represented by two-time SVI-Petron Grand prix champion George Ramirez of SRA Racing Team and Mike Potenciano of MP Turbo.

For details, call SVI at tel. 671-6926.

Tuason disappointed

TUASON Racing-Team Oxygen skipper JP Tuason was all set to plunge into Formula 3 racing but mechanical problems spoiled his debut in the kickoff of the 2002 Asian Formula 3 Championship today at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The 27-year-old Tuason was actually running a fastest laptime of one minute and 36 seconds during the practice run on the new track with an added length of 800 meters.

But a malfunctioning computer box denied the two-time Karter of the Year and son of late car racing legend Arthur of what could have been a good finish in this prestigious event.

"It was very disappointing," said Tuason, who is being backed up in the event by Oxygen, Standard Insurance, Hanjin Shipping, Technomarine Watches, Forward Magazine, Magic 89.9, Paintworks and Opel-Makati.

Pastor, Retuya shine

TEC-Shell's Carlos Pastor and Cebuano Joel Retuya of Shell Racing Team shared honors as they topped separate races in the Formula Toyota Cup at the kickoff of the 2002 Casino Filipino Grand Prix held last weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Pastor took a good headstart, pushing with a fastest laptime of 1:39.539 on the second lap to pull ahead of his rivals in this event sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro and Kilton Motors Corporation.

SPORTSWATCH

Dickies joining Subic Grand Prix

COMPETING in its first major stint in local sports, the Dickies Racing Team hopes to hit it big when it sees action in the 2002 SVI-Subic Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway on April 13-14. With racing celebrities Monching and Tonton Gutierrez bannering the Dickies Racing Team, officials of the world's popular workwear expressed confidence of a possible worthy showing in the two-day event. "I like our chances especially with Monching and Tonton around," said Dody Arcaya, Dickies vice-president for sales and marketing, in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn hotel. Arcaya was accompanied by Monching and race director Chris Fajardo in the Agfa Color and Red Bull-sponsored session.

Cebu, Davao host NGAP events

THE ELIMINATIONS for the national age-group championships resume with the holding of the two qualifying legs in the south this week. First to be held is the Visayas Regional Qualifying April 11-12 at the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club in Pardo, Cebu City. Then the series moves to the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club in Mandug/Ingangan, Davao City for the Mindanao leg on April 15-16. The top performers in the two southern legs will join qualifiers from the Metro Manila and Luzon eliminations on April 25-26 at Riviera in the national finals at Eagle Ridge on May 7-9. The national age group series is being conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines and supported by the Philippine Golf Foundation (PGF).

Paeng leaving for London tilt

NEPOMUCENO

FOUR-TIME World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno, who recently rolled a perfect 300 game in Malaysia, leaves for London tomorrow to participate in the prestigious World Tenpin Masters, an annual event organized by Matchroom Sports. The world match play championship will be telecast by ESPN and will feature the Top 16 bowlers of the world with eight world champions and one US champion competing in the singles elimination format. After London, Paeng will proceed to Singapore to participate in the International Super Classic before returning to Manila.

Salvador outclasses Dimayuga

NIÑO Salvador outclassed JR Dimayuga, 6-0, 6-1, and Nestor Celestino Jr. rallied past Jandrick de Castro, 0-6, 6-1, 7-5, yesterday to reach the second round of the boys' 21-under singles in the Juntaphil Cup age-group tennis tournament at the Baguio Tennis Club. Also advancing were Ian de Guzman, who beat Noel Manalo, 6-3, 6-4, and Austrian Charles Baba, a 6-3, 6-0 winner over Engelbert Dionisio in the event supported by PCSO, Rebel Prepaid Internet Access, Accel Sports, Gatorade, Dunlop, Palmolive Shampoo, Ascend, Safeguard Sanitizer and One-One Rice Snacks.

Unilever Barkada stakes Toyota Altis

THE UNILEVER Barkada Golf Classic 2002, a tournament among the corporation's media friends, business partners and employees, will be held tomorrow at Wack Wack West. The event, which started in 1992, has drawn support from Toyota. Unilever's Chito Macapagal said a Toyota Altis 1.6J will be staked as a hole-in-one prize in all par 3 holes. The event will be held shotgun style at 7:30 a.m. Tournament format is System 36.

F1 Club moves to The Craic

THE F1 Club Live moves to The Craic (pronounced "krak"), Makati City's coolest party place, on April 14, 7 p.m., when it celebrates the 2002 San Mariano Grand Prix of the Formula 1. The Craic is an Irish pub situated at the penthouse of Max's Restaurant in Jupiter Street near Makati Avenue. The Craic boasts of a state of the art widescreen TV projection system and TV monitors strewn around the place to make it the perfect venue for watching the live feed of the F1 Championship series. "We believe that we have found a perfect home for the F1 Live," said Xtreme Worx president Noli Tinio.

Bibat unbeaten jungolfer with 3 victories

RED-HOT Michael Bibat remained unbeaten in the Jungolf Summer Circuit as he picked up a third straight victory by ruling Class A in the John Hay Jungolf Open over the weekend in Baguio City.

Bibat carded rounds of 66 and 77 for a 143 total to beat DJ Padilla (74-71-145) by two strokes in the 36-hole event.

Paolo Panlilio placed third at 77-149, Keenan Ugarte fourth 74-150 and Don Padilla, who highlighted his first round 71 with an ace, fifth.

The other division winners in the 36-hole event were Matet Salivio in girls Class A, Justin Tambunting and Geleen Handog in Class B, Miko Yee and Mabel Salivio in Class C, Reigill Medestomas and Mia Piccio in Class D and Raymund Gonzales and Dottie Ardina in Class D.

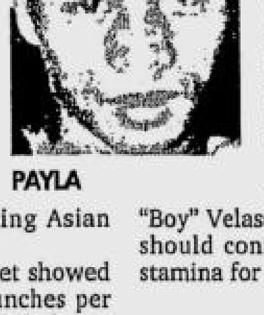
It was actually Bibat's fourth consecutive win after earlier topping the Metro Manila leg of the national age-group at Valley, the Asian Juniors qualifying at Aguinaldo and the Jungolf Interclub.

Tambunting posted a three-shot win over Lawrence Negrido; Handog won by eight over Lynnel de Villa; Yee edged Korean Jun Lee Lee by three; Mabel Salivio finished far ahead of Debbie de Villa; Medestomas was a two-stroke winner over Jobim Carlos; Piccio was virtually unchallenged against Jaymeline Ricohermoso; Gonzales narrowly beat Michael Limardibrata by three and Ardina won by 17 over Christina Potenciano.

Meanwhile, Butch and Irene Rondez topped the parent-and-child tourney held simultaneously with the event. They scored a net 60.

Class B was won by Lawrence and Mary Grace Negrido while Ryan and John Kier Abdon ruled Class C. Miguel and Tony Arevalo won Class D while M. Robles and No Punjaba prevailed in Class E.

Payla beats teammate, snares gold


PAYLA

HELSINKI, Finland—Violito Payla collected the country's only gold at the expense of teammate Harry Tanamor and gave Team Caltex Philippines a respectable fourth place finish among 12 countries in the 21st Gee Bee International Amateur Boxing Championships here Sunday.

Payla scored an easy win over the left-handed Tanamor, who could not land a hard punch with his left fist after a wrist injury in the semifinals a day earlier.

Boxing chief and delegation head Manny Lopez ruled out a default to prevent further injury to his wrist, saying the fight must be staged in deference to the organizers and spectators.

Tanamor, who stopped his foes inside the distance in the quarterfinals (RSC-Outclassed, 2nd) and semifinals (18-3), fought gamely through four rounds, underscoring his readiness to climb from lightflyweight to the next rung.

Payla received the Best Fight award for his win over Tanamor in the match cheered by a hometown crowd.

The win, coming after his gold medal finish in the Chowdry Cup last month, gave Team Caltex Philippines its solitary gold following the loss of featherweight Roel Laguna to Finland's Jussi Koivula (8-15) and lightweight Romeo Brin to Bulgaria's Dimitar Stilianov (0-20).

Boxing secretary general Rene Fortaleza, who serves as international referee, had reservations over the scoring but Lopez, who is here to check the progress of his ward's buildup for the forthcoming Asian Games, declined to file a protest.

The judges' individual score sheet showed Brin landed an average of four punches per round but these were not counted. Before a punch can be registered in the computer as a point for the boxer, the rule states that "the majority of the five judges must punch the score at the same time—within one second."

Still, the team, sponsored by Caltex Philippines and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Revicon, finished fourth among 14 teams from 12 countries with one gold, three silver and a bronze.

The lone bronze came from lightweight Anthony Igusquiza who lost in the semifinals. Bantamweight Vincent Palicte missed the bronze, losing a winning quarterfinal match through a controversial two-point deduction and a swollen wrist.

During a prayer session after the finals, national coach Nolito "Boy" Velasco reminded the boxers that they should continue improving their skills and stamina for the Asian Games.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Catherine Teyab fired 587 points in the ladies standard .22 caliber rifle prone event to break the 1989 SEAG mark of 583 in the National Open shooting championship at the NRP ranges in Quezon City

FARE DISCOUNT

PSC gets private sector support

Exalta GS Superio crew tours Negros

DUMAGUETE—The Nissan Exalta GS Superio's seasoned crew headed by Andy Dysangco toured scenic Negros province in the fourth Pan Philippine Marathon which aims to log 31,000 kilometers in a 30-day, non-stop run across the archipelago.

From Bato, Cebu the Exalta took a 20-minute ferry crossing on board the LCT ferry of Maayo Shipping lines to the town of Tamp, which is 17 kilometers north of Dumaguete, for an 8:30 a.m. breakfast meeting with Tony Mapa, who welcomed the crew.

After a 30-minute break, the crew of Exalta—powered by a potent but fuel-efficient QG 1.6-liter VTC, ECCS engine—went to downtown Bacolod for an 11:30 meeting with local Nissan officials.

Mapa was surprised with the performance of the sparkling silver colored sedan that has chalked up a total of 3,399 kilometers in its Caltex odometer after being flagged off at the Eastwood City in Quezon City on Friday afternoon.

"I was impressed by the quietness of the one-stage chain that resulted in better fuel economy needed in long drives," said Mapa, a topnotch car buff who now heads Negros Navigation.

Mon Dizon, who is also on board the Exalta, believes the car is living up to the hype although the true worth of the car will be known when the rally enters its second week.

"So far, we have no qualms about the performance of this baby," said Dizon. "It has given us a luxurious ride even in traffic. The handling is also exceptional. But the run is far from over. The Exalta's safety features and its engine would definitely undergo a major test in the coming days," said Dizon.

BUHAIN

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission Chair Eric R. Buhain recently forged an agreement with Air Philippines and Philtranco Service Enterprises to provide national athletes, coaches and PSC employees a 20 percent discount on fare effective April 12 until the end of the year.

Air Philippines and Philtranco also agreed to extend support to the PSC's grassroots development programs such as the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy and the Palarong Pambansa.

"As I said before when I assumed office, I will not hesitate to ask for support from the private sector to uplift the welfare of athletes and coaches as well as employees," Buhain said.

"We are here with the sole purpose of serving Philippine sports and I would like to thank Air Philippines and Philtranco for their support," he added.

Delegates and officials participating in the 2002 Palarong Pambansa in Naga and other grassroots programs of the PSC this year will be granted special discounts on fare, including insurance and additional baggage allowance.

Air Philippines will also promote the PSC program "Piso Para sa Atleta" by remitting to the government sports agency one peso of every ticket sold starting July 1 until the end of the year.

The PSC is also set to forge a similar agreement with Whitehall Pharmaceutical Philippines.

Women's football on today at Ateneo

BACK-TO-BACK champion Davao Selection sees action as six games kick off the 6th National Women's Football Championship today at the Philsports and Ateneo University fields.

The draw for the games was to be held during the managers' meeting scheduled late yesterday at the Philippine Football Federation office at the Philsports Complex in Pasig City.

Challenging Davao in the five-day tourney organized by PFF are NCR's Alumnae Football Club, Baguio City, Laguna Selection, Quezon's SLPC Laboratory High, Camarines Norte's Vicente National High Masbate City, Negros Occidental's University of St. La Salle, Dumaguete, Cebu's University of San Carlos, Ateneo de Zamboanga and Rizal Selection.

6th Nestea Beach Volley University Championships

METRO MANILA LEG

TEAM RANKING AS OF APRIL 5, 2002

Teams	PTS. WON	PTS. LOST	QUOTIENT	RANK
WOMEN'S Division				
Mapua Inst. of Tech.	63	26	2.4231	1
Phil. Christian Univ.	63	37	1.7027	2
Univ. of the East	63	39	1.6154	3
UAP	61	49	1.2449	4
PSBA	56	52	1.0769	5
MEN'S Division				
Adamson University	63	31	2.0323	1
Letran	63	34	1.8529	2
PATTS	63	38	1.6579	3
Far Eastern University	63	40	1.5760	4
UAP	59	39	1.5128	5

Catch the Luzon and Visayas - Mindanao Eliminations on April 13, 14 & 15 at La Salle Green Hills!

PBA imports' behavior sucks

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ANOTHER display of bad temper, this time by San Miguel imports Lamont Strothers and Mario Bennett, happened last Sunday during the SMB-Sta. Lucia game in the ongoing Philippine Basketball Association Governors' Cup, proving once more that some of these visiting players have become the pro league's biggest disappointment because their behavior sucks.

These temperamental imports should be fined heavily and suspended for the rest of this conference, better still sent home immediately, for conduct not worth emulation by the Filipino people. As I have said before, PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino has the power to impose his will and send the message that misdeeds such as Strothers' will not be tolerated, but thus far, he has been lenient. Jun B should put more teeth to dispel the notion that his office has been treating these erring imports too lightly by merely putting on kid gloves and slapping their wrists. (Strothers and Bennett have been summoned to appear before the commissioner today.)

The ill-tempered Strothers instigated last Sunday's uproar when he tried to attack Sta. Lucia's Gerald Francisco who fouled Bennett in the closing seconds of the game which Sta. Lucia won, 73-65. The game was delayed for nearly five minutes when Strothers went wild after he was stripped of the ball by Sta. Lucia import Mark Davis while driving for the basket with seven seconds remaining. He felt he was fouled and when no foul was called he lost his temper. He subsequently chased and cursed referee Franco Ilagan who then slapped him a technical. Strothers later threw the ball to the upper box section of the Araneta Coliseum and took off his jersey, with Bennett joining his infuriated teammate by likewise taking off his shirt. Both imports were ejected from the game.

"This (unsportsmanlike behavior) is something that the public wouldn't want to see," said the TV panelist after this ugly display of temper. "These imports should learn to lose well."

Many also noticed that while cooler heads were trying in vain to calm down Strothers, nobody from the San Miguel bench came right away to placate the angry import, prompting the TV analyst to ask: "But where's the coach (Siot Tanquincen) and team manager (Robert Non)?" Fortunately, Jong Uichico, head coach of the Asiad-bound Philippine team on loan from SMB, finally appeared to calm down the two SMB imports, bringing back decency and sanity to the game.

In the beginning, these imports generated widespread interest in the way they dominated the local basketball scene, adding luster to the PBA which was then falling on hard times. The media hype and hoopla made them even more popular with the public. But pretty soon, these imports, who were initially considered as the solution to the problem became the problem itself. From well-loved heroes, they became much-hated heels because of their inflated egos, rudeness and arrogance. Outside the playing court, many even got involved in disco brawls and sexual abuses against Filipino women. These hotheaded imports have become a pain in the neck.

Jamero clinches 2 golds

JENNIFER Jamero steered Sta. Ana Elementary School to back-to-back victories in volleyball before capturing two gymnastics gold medals yesterday in the first Manila Youth Games at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Jamero provided precious points for Sta. Ana in the spikefest held at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium and had to be accompanied to the gymnastics hall several hundred meters away to display her wares in artistic gymnastics.

In the floor exercise, Jamero posted a score of 8.70, while Cristin Joy Adajar earned 7.85 and Lovely Resureccion got 7.55.

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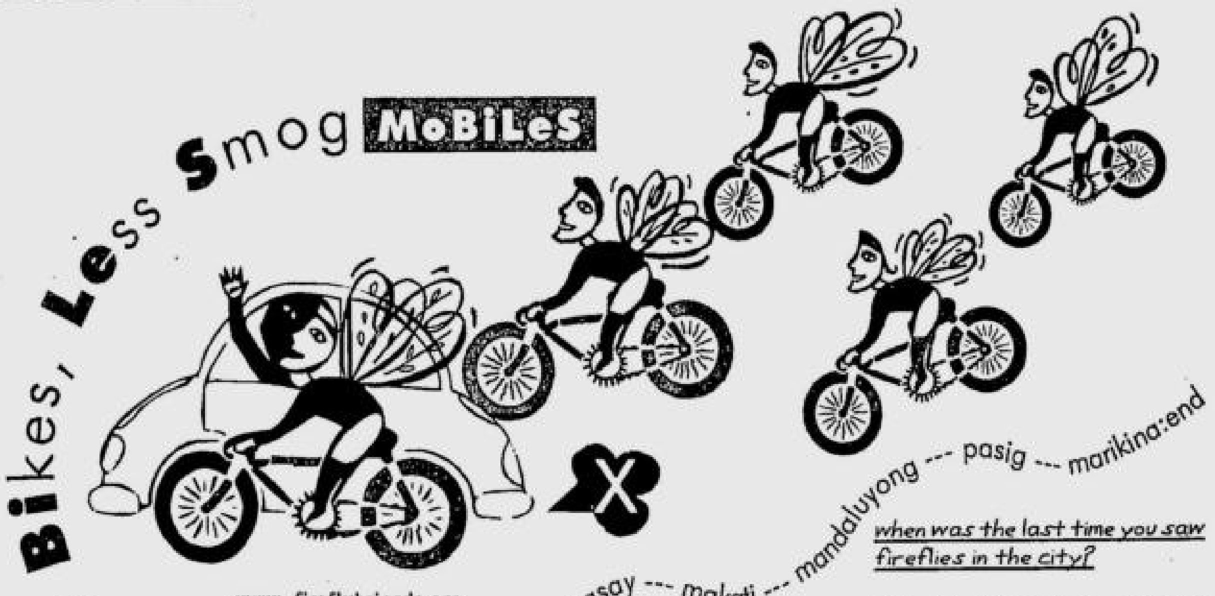
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We are also in danger of disappearing like the fireflies, but we can choose to fight for clean air and bring the fireflies back.

50 km through 7 cities of Metro Manila starts at **UP Diliman** and ends at the **Marikina Riverbanks Center** registration starts at **5.30 am** at the **UP Diliman Old Golf Course** (near College of MassCom, across the oblation, north side) ride begins at **7.00 am** and will end about **12 nn**

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Marawi City footrace slated

MARAWI City and the Fraternal Order of Eagles will stage the First Lanao 38-Kilometer Run for Peace in this Baguio City of the South on April 14. The event coincides with the 22nd founding anniversary of the city. Registrations are on April 12 and 13 at Dunkin Donuts, Iligan City. Entry fee is P100. For inquiries, call project coordinators Junaid Camama, Jam Maruhom, Michael Neri, Jam Lucman and Nash Sampaco at 0919-8111605.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

■ **Payla captures precious Finland boxing gold** A20

BERNARDINO

PBA chief slams nat'l team critics

By Dennis U. Eroa

AN OBVIOUSLY peeved PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino yesterday slammed critics of the national basketball training teams even as he expressed reservations over the planned Senate inquiry on Fil-Am players eyeing spots in the Asian Games slated this September in Busan, South Korea.

Bernardino appeared during yesterday's PSA Forum sponsored by Red Bull and AgfaColor at the Holiday Inn and was asked to comment on the alleged "weaknesses" of the future national team which is driving away big companies from sponsoring the Asiad TV coverage.

"If this is true, I think it's very unfair to blame the basketball squad for this problem. Those who are saying this doesn't really know basketball," said Bernardino, who reiterated his support to the coaching staff of the nationals.

Bernardino said 15 players will remain from the original roster of 27 after the Governors' Cup.

"Coach Jong (Uichico) and his assistants have the sole responsibility to pick the roster. That's the agreement. 'Let us be judged by our performances at the end of the day. Everything is going according to plans," added Bernardino, who also asked the public to support the team's endeavor because it is for the country's glory.

The PBA head admitted that winning the Asiad gold is a tall order and picked defending champion China, host Korea and Lebanon as the country's fiercest rivals.

Two Chinese behemoth, Wang Zhizhi and Menk Batere—who are presently seeing action with the Dallas Mavericks and the Denver Nuggets, respectively, will see action for China, while Korea will play in front of a highly partisan crowd. Boosted by Lebanese-American dribblers, Lebanon is currently ranked second in Asia.

A Senate inquiry on Fil-Am players, Bernardino stressed, will jeopardize the country's preparations for the quadrennial Games which also serves as an Olympic qualifier.

"It's fine if the Senate will inquire but we'll be forced to put down everything until the end of the investigation," said Bernardino, stressing that Fil-Am players can only play in the PBA if cleared by the immigration and Justice Department.

"Instead of helping our Asiad quest, some Filipinos are even trying to make it hard for us," Bernardino noted.

Talk N Text posts 8th win

TALK N TEXT registered a franchise record eighth straight victory at the expense of Batang Red Bull, 98-90, in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome last night.

Gerald Honeycutt and Richie Frahm delivered again in the homestretch as the Phone Pals formally assured themselves of a twice-to-beat edge going into the quarterfinals with a league-leading 8-1 record.

In sending the Thunder down to their fourth defeat in nine games, the Phone Pals also eclipsed their longest winning streak of seven recorded at the start of the 1999 All-Filipino Cup.

Scores:

TALK 'N TEXT 98—Honeycutt 35, Telan 21, Frahm 18, Gonzales 10, Pablo 6, Demape 5, Lago 3, Evans 0.

RED BULL 90—Lang 29, Bunn 17, Tugade 15, Miller 10, Villoria 5, Locsin 5, Asaytono 4, Reyes 3, Torion 2, Hizon 0.

Quarterscores: 25-26, 55-50, 77-71, 98-90.

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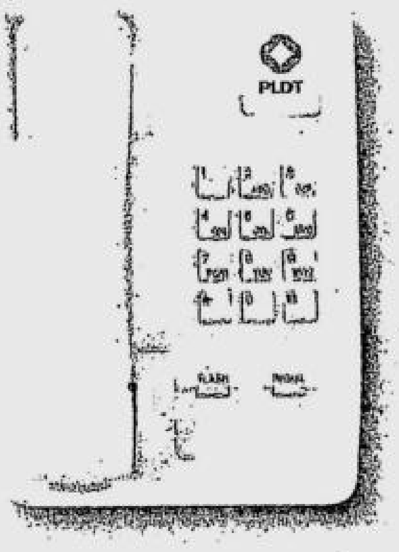

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

▩ **Drug suspects' kin fire at cops** /A24

▩ **Bare Eye: Caught in a culture of undeserved savagery** /A24

▩ **Healer led probers to body of Rosielyn Federico's body** /A24

Singer Bobby Gonzales in intensive care unit

By Leah Salterio

GONZALES

SINGER Bobby Gonzales, who recorded several Filipino hits such as "Hahabol-habol," has been confined in the intensive care unit of the Parañaque Medical Center for nearly three weeks now and urgently needs a pacemaker.

Gonzales, 68, was admitted to the hospital on March 22, after complaining of difficulty in breathing, according to his brother-in-law Victor Berey.

As Gonzales lies in his ICU bed, the remains of his friend and fellow singer Diomedes Maturan lie in state in a church in Quezon City. Maturan, 61, died of a heart attack Sunday night.

SINGER BOBBY/ A24

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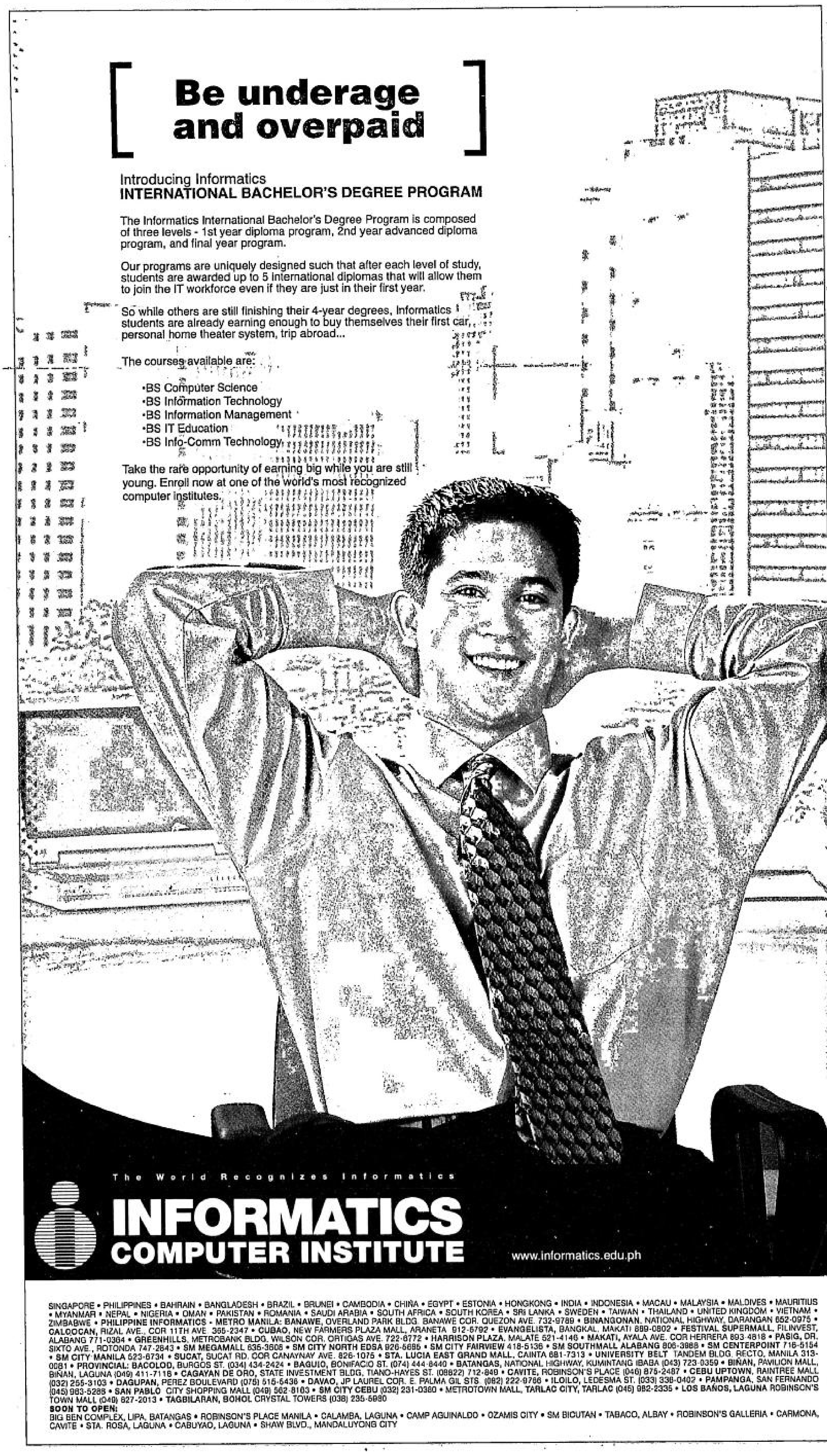

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Drug suspects' kin fire at cops

By Jerome Aning

MANILA policemen literally came under fire when they arrested four suspected drug pushers at the Quiapo Islamic Center on Monday.

But the members of the Metro Manila Drug Enforcement Unit and Western Police District Stations 7 and 3 were unhurt.

They said they seized from suspects Arafat Balayon, 30, his father Mohaimen, 78, Amilyn Arimao, 27, and a 17-year-old girl two plastic bags containing 150 grams of shabu.

The policemen arrested the four suspects during a raid on the Balayon residence on the second floor of the J & L Building on Carlos Palanca Street about 3 p.m. on Monday.

DEU chief of Station 7 Senior Insp. Francisco Sevilla III said they received intelligence reports pointing to the Balayons and alleged financier Arimao as being responsible for the proliferation of shabu in Tondo.

Sevilla and Senior Insp. Richard Madlangbayan of the MMDEG decided to conduct a joint operation after coordinating with Station 3 DEU head Insp. Dante Tayco.

A member of the raiding team, PO1 Bernardito David, posed as a buyer and was able to obtain shabu from the Balayons, police said. The raiders then burst into the Balayon residence and arrested the suspects.

But other occupants of the building, presumably relatives and friends of the suspects, fired at the police team, police said.

A brief gun battle ensued as the policemen tried to get out of the building with their captives.

Police said the incident ended when members of the WPD special weapons and tactics team and the nearby Palanca police community precinct arrived.

The suspects were later brought to the city prosecutor's office and charged with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act.

'THERE IS JUSTICE'

Healer led probers to Rosielyn Federico's body

By Nelson F. Flores

A PSYCHIC known only as Ka Berta described to investigators the place where the rapists and killers of Rosielyn Federico dumped her body in July 1993, according to her father Faustino.

In an interview, the 62-year-old former overseas foreign worker said police had no idea where to look for the body of his daughter Rosielyn. Only after the family contacted Ka Berta in Antipolo City did police know where to look for the young woman's body, which was found in a grassy lot near the Federico home, said the father.

"There is justice in our country after all," he said, a few days after Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 168 Judge Leile Acebo last Wednesday found the suspects guilty of killing and raping his daughter on July 5, 1993.

Judge Cebo sentenced to life imprisonment brother Ramon and Adorable de la Paz, Joel Borlon, Allan Florentino and Zaldy de la Paz.

Even if retribution came nine years after the crime, Federico expressed satisfaction over the court's ruling. Last Sunday, his family held a thanksgiving Mass at their home in Parang, Marikina City.

Federico said he is happy that the perseverance of his family and friends who supported them finally paid off. He said he was already on the brink of losing hope when the guilty verdict was handed down on the suspects last week.

Federico was working in an oil refinery in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia when he learned of the abduction of Rosielyn, the fifth of his nine children. She was 22.

He remembered that July 5, 1993 was a warm day.

Immediately after he arrived in the Philippines, he began his quest for justice for his daughter.

There were testimonies from witnesses, but police "had no idea" where to find his daughter, Federico said. That was when they went to Ka Berta for help.

Rosielyn's body was found two days after she disappeared. Her naked body had signs of torture, and she had strangulation marks in the neck.

Federico recalled that police were initially active in looking for the suspects but they began to falter in their investigation when the suspects were identified.

Except for Marikina City police investigators Wilson Balauitan and Fernando Antonio, who worked hard to solve the case, the other members of the police force seemed hesitant to conduct an investigation, Federico noted.

Later, he learned that the members of the gang responsible for his daughter's rape and death were well connected, Federico said. One of them is a nephew of a then-ranking Marikina City police officer, he said. This prompted the Federico family to seek the help of then National Bureau of Investigation director Epimaco Velasco, Federico said.

Velasco's investigation immediately produced results: The suspects were arrested and they confessed to raping and killing Rosielyn three days after the NBI took over, Federico said.

One of the suspects admitted they were all under the influence of shabu when they took turns in raping the young woman.

Then-presiding Regional Trial Court judge Santiago Ranada Jr. acquitted the gang members, explaining that their extra-judicial confession could not be accepted as evidence.

"We immediately appealed the decision and got a favorable decision from the Court of Appeals, which was upheld by the Supreme Court," Federico said.

He claimed he heard rumors that the acquittal was "bought" for P10 million. The rumors also pointed to a prominent human rights lawyer as among those who acted as go-between for the deal to acquit the suspects, Federico said.

He said the gang members were also suspected in at least eight other rapes and killings in Marikina City. But since most of their victims did not have the capability and connections to pursue justice, the culprits got away with their crimes, he said. "I learned this when the family members of their other victims came and thanked me after the suspects were convicted," Federico said.

Until they were found guilty, the suspects maintained their innocence even if they had confessed earlier to committing the crime.

Before guards whisked the convicts to the New Bilibid Prison, one of them, Florentino, shouted at Federico in Filipino: "You even killed my father!"

Suspected members of the communist hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade shot dead the older Florentino near his house a year after the Federico rape and killing.

The ABB issued a statement claiming the killing.

Federico said he would actively help others who have become victims of heinous crimes, especially those committed by powerful and influential people like those who killed his daughter.

But he stressed that he does not intend to run for an elective post in Marikina City. Federico is now an active member of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

Manila pays tribute to Celerio, San Pedro

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA City council yesterday unanimously passed a resolution paying tribute to late National Artists Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio.

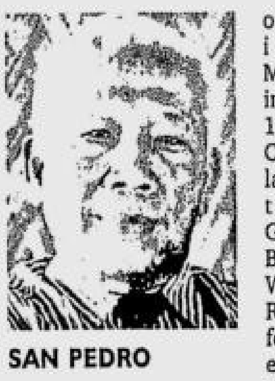
The councilors devoted most of their session yesterday to eulogizing the two National Artists. San Pedro, a National Artist for music, died March 31. Celerio, a National Artist for music and literature, died April 2.

"Let us give credit where credit is due," said the council's president pro tempore Alejandro "Kim" Atienza, who authored the resolution with Councilor Luciano "Lou" Veloso.

Veloso said called Celerio "a versatile artist... gifted with a magical grasp of Tagalog and intricate but folksy verse tradition, and perhaps the inventor of novelty music (who wrote) nearly 34,000 songs."

San Pedro will be remembered "as the creative nationalist who glorified the Filipino soul and his hometown Angono, Rizal through the creative use of folk idiom in his compositions," Veloso said.

CELERIO



SAN PEDRO

Celerio, dubbed "poet of Philippine music," wrote the lyrics of many memorable folk songs in the previous century: love songs such as "Dungawin Mo Hirang" and "Kapritsosa," and even Christmas carols such as "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit."

Atienza recalled that the city government cited Celerio as one of the outstanding Manileños in the late 1990s. Celerio landed in the Guinness Book of World Records for his talent of making music out of non-musical media such as the saw and the leaf.

San Pedro received the Republic Cultural Heritage Award in 1962 for his symphonic poem "Lahing Kayumanggi" which depicts the Filipino people's heroic struggle for national emancipation.

San Pedro composed music for several Tagalog movies, mainly those produced by the late Fernando Poe Sr., and the oratorio "The Redeemer," which is about the life and passion of Jesus Christ.

The council is preparing a similar resolution to honor balladeer Diomedes Maturan, who died Sunday night.

San Pedro will also be honored tonight in a special performance of the Angono National Symphonic Band (ANSB) at the wake of the National Artist. Performance starts at 8 p.m. and is open to the public.

The ANSB has been under San Pedro's tutelage since 1933.

"We will be playing selected pieces of the great maestro including 'Suit Pastorale,' 'Dalagang Mahinhin,' 'The Voyage Overture,' and 'Lahing Kayumanggi,'" said Gabby Rojas, grandson of San Pedro and spokesperson for the family.

Since April 3, marching bands from neighboring towns have been performing nightly in honor of the National Artist such as Banda Malaya of Taytay, Rizal, the GHQ Army Band, and the Angono Concert Band.

Singer Bobby Gonzales . . .

From page A23

A staff nurse at the ICU told the INQUIRER Gonzales was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute emphysema and stage-3 hypertension.

The singer, however, remains conscious even if he breathes only through a mechanical ventilator. He can also communicate through writing.

His relatives occupy a private room in the same hospital and take turns in watching him. Yesterday, his elder sister, Vicky Gonzales-Berey and his niece Ditas Palmos, were keeping watch.

Palmos is the daughter of Gonzales' eldest sister Letty.

"He does not want anything," Palmos said of her uncle. "He only wants to go home."

Gonzales lives with Berey in Perpetual Village along the East Service Road in Sucat, Parañaque.

His brother-in-law Victor Berey said they need to raise P150,000 for the pacemaker.

The singer's siblings, nephews, nieces and close friends have been trying to raise the money. They also help shoulder the singer's medicine expenses which run up to P10,000 a day.

The nurse said the pacemaker will "initiate the beating of the heart" and can help Gonzales breathe easily.

When the pacemaker is attached to Gonzales' heart, the singer can be discharged from the hospital, said the nurse.

"We want to correct the notion that his condition is worsening," said Palmos. "There was even a report that he already died. We hope he gets better soon so he can go home."

Gonzales' attending physicians are Dr. Susan Lim (pulmonary internal medicine) and Dr. Cecilia Castillo (cardiologist).

Gonzales, who is known as the Johnny Ray of the Philippines, became part of a musical tandem with Sylvia La Torre. In the '60s, the duo hosted a daily noontime program, "The Big Show," which later became "Oras ng Ligaya."

Gonzales is also an Alpha Records artist who made the hits "Hahabol-Habol" with La Torre, "Inday ng Buhay Ko," "Ale, Ale," "Walastik," "Diyan Ka Na" and "Dalagang Suplada."

In the late '80s, he performed regularly at the Intramuros Bar of Hotel Nikko Manila Garden.

In 1999, he was honored with the Lou Salvador Memorial Award during the 47th Famas night.

Meanwhile, the remains of Maturan lie at the Sacred Heart Church on Bayani corner Plaridel in Galas, Quezon City, behind the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and near Araneta Avenue.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 13, at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat Road, Parañaque.

METROBRIEFS

2 shot dead on bridge

TWO suspected robbers were shot dead after exchanging gunfire with policemen who were manning a checkpoint in Sta. Mesa, Manila Monday night. Police identified one of the suspects as Reynaldo Escosis, 28, of Tondo, based on an ID card found in his wallet. Police described the other suspect as the same age as Escosis, about 5-foot-6, fair-skinned, of medium build and clad in blue jeans, white shirt and brown leather belt. SPO2 Athos de Quiros said the two were on board an Enduro motorcycle (MP-655) when they crossed the Old Sta. Mesa bridge about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday. Two groups of policemen from Western Police District Station 8 were conducting an on-the-spot inspection of suspicious-looking people. The men on the motorcycle allegedly refused to stop. PO2 Daniel Milan said he radioed the other police group on the opposite side of the bridge to stop the duo. Upon seeing the roadblock, the two jumped off the motorcycle and fired at the lawmen with handguns, police alleged. The policemen returned fire. Police claimed they found on the suspects two .38 homemade revolvers, 6 spent 9-mm bullets, 9 live .38 shells, four slugs, a black bonnet, leather gloves, and two leather wallets with IDs with different names and addresses. *Jerome Aning*

A life for a phone

INTERNET enthusiast and former overseas worker Julius Ebreo will no longer surf the 'Net. Ebreo, of Antipolo Street in Tondo, Manila, was stabbed dead when he tried to resist two men who wanted him to surrender his cell phone near Rizal Park Sunday night. PO2 Ramil Bergado of the Western Police District Station 5 said Ebreo, of Tondo, was looking for an Internet café when two men accosted him on Ma. Orosa Street about 9 p.m. They asked for his Nokia 3310 cell phone and stabbed him twice when he refused, police said. The wounded Ebreo managed to board a jeepney that brought him to the hospital where he died after an hour. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Robbery, not beauty treatment

FOUR men who were definitely not after a facial broke into the David's Hairdresser Salon branch on A. H. Lacson Street in Sampaloc, Manila and stole about P175,000 from the salon and its customers around noon last Sunday, police said. Inventory clerk Grace Madrid said the salon lost P30,000 in cash. Flight stewardess Ma. Shiela Ferer, 28, lost her P12,000 Nokia 8210. Ferer's fellow customer Virgie de Ocampo, 57, lost a pair of gold earrings worth P45,000, a $700 gold bracelet, P23,000 in cash, and $600. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Youth caught in crossfire

KERMIT Navarro, 17, was shot dead during a clash between street gangs in Paco, Manila before dawn Sunday. Navarro, also of Paco, died from a gunshot wound in the head, said SPO4 William Gondranios. Navarro was walking home and was at the corner of the South Luzon Expressway and San Andres Street when he got caught in the brawl at about 3:15 a.m., police said. The young man was forced to run with a group of youths who were fleeing from another group when he was shot, apparently mistaken for a member of one of the gangs, police said. *Jerome Aning*

Caught in a culture of undeserved savagery

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

"ESPI 2 fite May 23 n Sn Jose vs Ever Beleno 38-9 w 34 KOs. Beleno lost 7 of last 8."

That text message flashed on my old but tough (it had suffered more than its share of bumps and kayoes) Nokia 5110 cell phone on Sunday.

The message was from Nick Giongo, ever-reliable boxing chronicler who, no wonder, was hardly amused with the information.

In case you failed to decipher it, Espi is Luisito Espinosa and he's to fight (again!) in San Jose, California on May 23.

The opponent is a certain Ever Beleno who has lost all but one of his last eight fights.

This promises to be a relatively easy outing for Espinosa?

Maybe. The big problem with Espinosa is he's already old.

Not yet a relic, of course.

But the former world bantamweight and featherweight champion is already 36.

* * *

So how does a 36-year-old punching bag feel?

Not very nice. In fact, if you bother to visit a boxing gym, you'd be lucky to find a couple of fighters as old as Luisito.

Majority of those who try to make a living out of their fists hang their gloves and rest their badly battered bodies shortly before, or immediately after, they turn 30.

Which means Espinosa is already worn-out, if not totally threadbare.

But based on glowing feeds from his California training hole, Espinosa still appears very solid around the belly.

He displays enough heft, says Hermie Rivera, whose son Noel has taken over Espinosa's career.

Luisito, explains Hermie, appears to pack enough stamina and power to win.

Of course, Hermie is not totally deluding himself about another world crown for his former ward.

All Hermie wants for Luisito now is a fight. And, of course, the badly needed purse.

It was easy to feel the hurt and misgiving in Hermie Rivera's narrative.

Sensibly, Luisito should be retired by now, but he continues to expose himself to undeserved danger and savagery.

The poor fellow, who sidelines as a bartender around Daly City, is pretty hard up.

He's ever in need of a little cash.

So he'll go out there and do it when he should no longer be fighting.

* * *

The message was short, terse.

Heavily armed men abducted a Chinoy trader in front of a cockfight stadium in Rizal over the weekend.

Some two hours later, police recovered the victim's car in a gas station based on the info phoned in by suspected kidnappers.

The suspects also used the victim's cell phone to make their demand. They asked for a $1-million ransom.

With his rich-sounding name, there was some reason for his kidnappers to suspect the family of the victim had the needed cash to rescue him.

But you know what? Yesterday, a very close friend of the abducted trader, who happens to be my dear ally, called up to bare his disgust.

He swore the kidnappers had pounced on the wrong victim.

The family of their captive did not even have P10 million.

In fact, this dear ally of mine was burning the lines yesterday trying to sell a piece of property in Pasay.

He was forlorn and frantic. He wanted to help the victim's family raise P10 million.

Please be reminded that the kidnappers had initially demanded $1 million.

* * *

Espinosa and the kidnapped trader live worlds apart.

But it was very clear they were similarly unprepared for their fate.

Luisito fought for many years, excelling here and abroad and thereby making his country and government proud.

But a final huge purse in a world title bout in Mindanao has remained unpaid, no thanks to built-in corruption and the ineptitude of the government agency tasked to oversee that fight.

Had he been paid his deserved purse, Luisito should instead be resting, safely away from savagery this late in his career.

His fans, friends, the whole country, needless to say, are left to worry over Luisito's life and health.

* * *

Meanwhile, the kidnapped Chinoy, who excelled in his trade using honesty and hard-earned expertise, is caught in a very perilous corner.

In fact, his family and friends could not determine if he's still alive.

His poor mother, last seen, was still sobbing in a dark corner of their house where she has been stuck since the weekend abduction of her dear son.

The poor victim, just like all of us, doesn't deserve all this barbarity.

Prior to this kidnapping, it was said that gangsters also took a businessman and demanded a P100-million ransom.

After the family coughed up P10 million, the kidnappers took the cash but said they would wait for the remaining P90 million before releasing the victim.

There was also this recent report of another kidnap victim being able to escape from under the septic tank where he had been by kept his captors.

However, one obscenity we all can't escape is the assuring smile of the visibly contented, overfed head of the national police agency.

He continues to swear he's doing his job.

The President of the Republic obviously believes him.

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1 S2PID LUV	1 ICE AGE	4 BLOW DRY	1 BEFORE NIGHT FALLS	1 THX HART'S WAR
2 HART'S WAR	2 E.T.	5 MIMIC 2	2 HART'S WAR	2 SHOWTIME
3 BLADE 2	3 THX HART'S WAR GUARANTEED SEATS	6 SHOWTIME	3 SHOWTIME	3 ICE AGE
4 SHOWTIME		7 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	4 Onstage LANI ON SATGE APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 E.T.
				5 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DDS)	BLADE 2
2 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4 GOLD (DTS)	SHOWTIME
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	HARTS WAR
6 GOLD (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	MIMIC 2
8	S2PID LUV
9	E.T.
10	BLOW DRY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
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1	S2PID LUV
2	SHOWTIME
3	ITLOG

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	S2PID LUV
2	SHOWTIME
3	HARI NG SELDA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARTS WAR
5	E.T

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ITLOG
3	S2PID LUV
4	HARTS WAR
5	SHOWTIME
6	E.T
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	SHOWTIME

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	ITLOG
A	SHOWTIME

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	HARTS WAR
2	S2PID LUV
3	ITLOG
4	HARI NG SELDA

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	HARTS WAR
2	
3	
4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
5	HARI NG SELDA
6	S2PID LUV
7 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
8 (SDDS)	BLADE 2
9 (DOLBY)	BLOW DRY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	S2PID LUV

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	S2PID LUV
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	SHOWTIME
4 (SDDS)	HARTS WAR
5	ITLOG
6 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
7 (DTS)	E.T.
8	ICE AGE
9	TIME MACHINE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
2	S2PID LUV
3	ITLOG
4	ICE AGE
5 (SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6	HARI NG SELDA
7 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
8	E.T.

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	S2PID LUV
2	BLADE 2
3 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
4-	HARI NG SELDA
5 (SDDS)	HARTS WAR

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	S2PID LUV

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	S2PID LUV

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	S2PID LUV
2	SHOWTIME
3	ITLOG

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	HART'S WAR
2	SHOWTIME
3	CLOSED
4	S2PID LUV
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	S2PID LUV
2	ITLOG

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	BLADE 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DTS)	BLADE 2
3 (DOLBY)	CROSSROADS
4	

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
3 (DTS)	CROSSROADS
4	

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	S2PID LUV
2	E.T.
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	BANDITS
2	E.T
3 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 (DTS)	S2PID LUV

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HARTS WAR
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	ITLOG
4 (DTS)	HARTS WAR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SNAKE CHARMER
4	HARI NG SELDA
5	CROSSROADS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	S2PID LUV
2	BLADE 2
3	ITLOG

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3	E.T.

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	HARI NG SELDA
2	ICE AGE
3	BIBINGKA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	S2PID LUV
2	BLADE 2
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	S2PID LUV
2 (DTS)	BLADE 2

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ITLOG
2	S2PID LUV
3	

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BLADE 2
2	BEAUTIFUL MIND
3	ITLOG
4	BANDITS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	MAJESTIC
4	BANDITS

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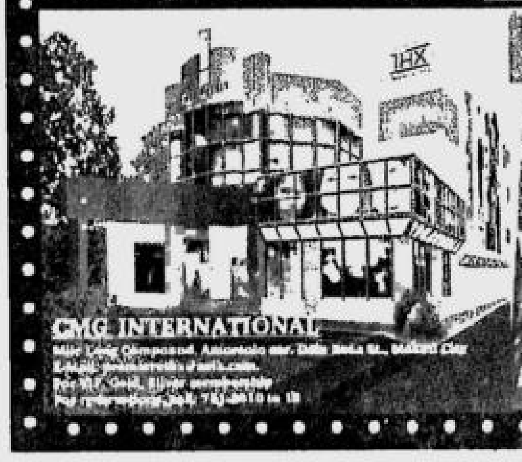
ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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1 THX	BLADE 2
2	ICE AGE
3	HARTS WAR
4	SHOWTIME
5	S2PID LUV
6	MONTE CRISTO
7	E.T.
8	MIMIC 2
9	BLOW DRY
10	CROSS ROADS / HOTDOG MOVIE

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	SHOWTIME
2	BLADE 2
3	MIMIC 2
4	MONTE CRISTO
5	S2PID LUV
6	BLOW DRY
7	HARTS WAR

Metro East -
Marcos Hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	MONTE CRISTO
2	SHOWTIME
3	HARTS WAR
4	BLADE 2
5	MIMIC 2
6	S2PID LUV
7	ICE AGE
8	E.T.

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	HARTS WAR
2	ICE AGE
3	MIMIC 2
4	MONTE CRISTO
5	BLADE 2
6	CROSS ROADS / ET
7	S2PID LUV
8	SHOWTIME

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	HARTS WAR
2	SHOWTIME
3	S2PID LUV
4	MIMIC 2
5	BLOW DRY
6	E.T.

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	E.T.
2	JOHN Q
3	HARI NG SELDA
4	MAJESTICS
5	MONTE CRISTO
6	WE WERE SOLDIERS

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	MONTE CRISTO
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	JOHN Q
4	SHIPPING NEWS
5	S2PID LUV
6	E.T.

Star Mills-
San Fernando, Pamp. 875 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	MAJESTICS
2	BANDITS
3	BLADE 2
4	S2PID LUV
5	E.T.
6	S2PID LUV

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Gary holds mall tour to promote album

APRIL has always been a special month for Gary Valenciano. He considers it his anniversary in show biz. Nineteen years ago this month, Gary launched his show biz career and the local music scene was never the same again.

This April, Gary celebrates his anniversary by going on a mall tour for his new Viva album, "One2One."

He will perform at the Entertainment Center of SM North Edsa on April 27, 4 p.m. He will be joined by MTV Asia's best female video awardee Kyla, who duets with him on "One2One's" carrier single, "Can We Just Stop and Talk a While."

The song is a remake of the Jose Mari Chan hit, produced and rearranged by Jimmy Antiporda. It has an accompanying music video directed by Boom Dayupay.

In the mall show, Gary will sing cuts from his new album and sign autographs as well.

The mall show will be Gary's first public appearances after his return from trips to Germany (where he performed at the prestigious music festival/exposition Musik Messe 2002) and Singapore (where he promoted his "I Will Be Here" album under MCA-Universal specifically for the Asian market). Gary did a show at Singapore's Indoor Stadium last March 24.

"One2One" features Gary in duets with some of the best and the biggest artists in local music.

The line-up includes Song Goddess Lani Misalucha (in a duet of Things Are Not The Same"), Divine Diva Zsa-Zsa Padilla (in a remake of Ogie Alcasid's plaintive OPM ballad "Kung Mawawala Ka"), pop diva Kuh Ledesma ("A Long and Lasting Love") and megastar Sharon Cuneta ("Somewhere, Somehow").

Also featured are duets with Freestyle vocalist Jinky Vidal ("Always"), Vina Morales ("Gusto Kita"), Bituin Escalante ("Hourglass"), upcoming Genesis artist Pam G ("Ikaw Lang Pala") and Gary's back-up vocalist for seven years, May Ann Casal-Soriano ("It's Okay").

Gary adds a new dimension to the all-duets format by bringing in no less than his mother, Grimilda Santiago-Ortiz in a duet of the classic Spanish love song "Historia de Un Amor."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HARI NG SELDA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HART'S WAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SHOW TIME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BLOW DRY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	E.T.
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	HARI NG SELDA
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE
ROBEN	ITLOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ITLOG
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	ITLOG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	S2PID LUV
B	ITLOG
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ICE AGE
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-3	ITLOG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	CROSS ROADS
CINEMA-8	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARTS WAR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHOW TIME
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-12	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-14	E.T.
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	HARTS WAR
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	EVIL WOMAN
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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CINEMA 2 SHOWTIME 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 P 13
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MUSIC MUSEUM
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The Count of Monte Cristo
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MTRCB RATING PG-13
The stars of "Black Hawk Down" and "She's All That" are paired for the first time in this Year's Most Romantic Comedy about Love with a lot of air!
Josh Hartnett
Rachael Leigh Cook
blow dry
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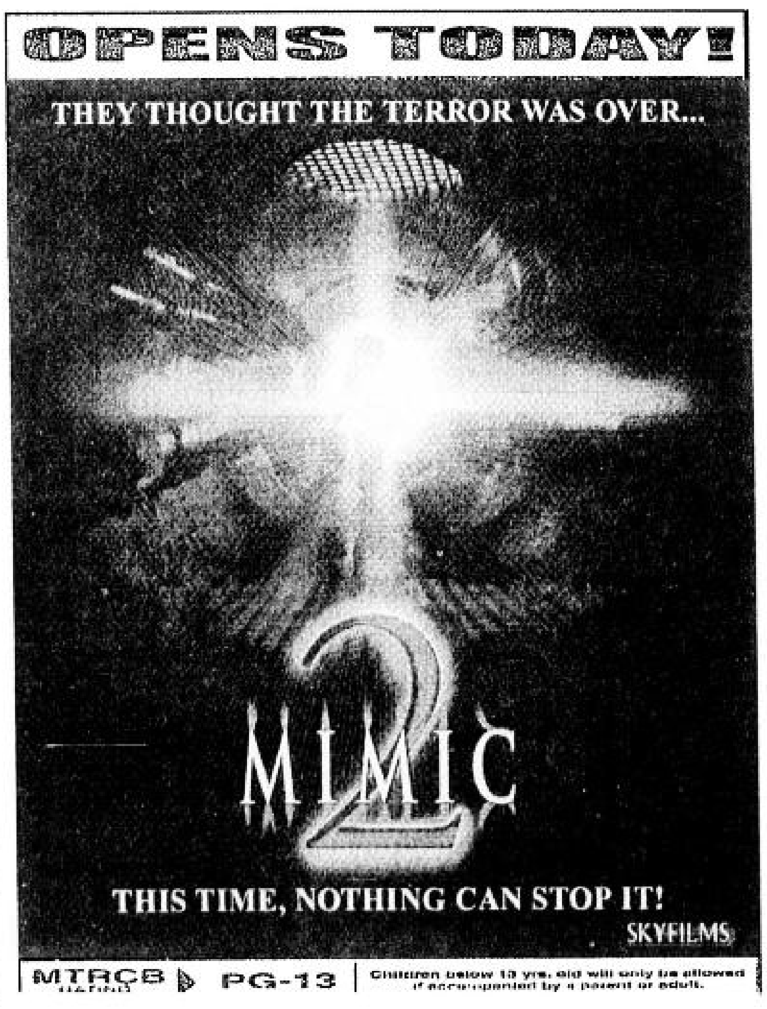
OPENS TODAY!
THEY THOUGHT THE TERROR WAS OVER...
MIMIC 2
THIS TIME, NOTHING CAN STOP IT!
SKYFILMS
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
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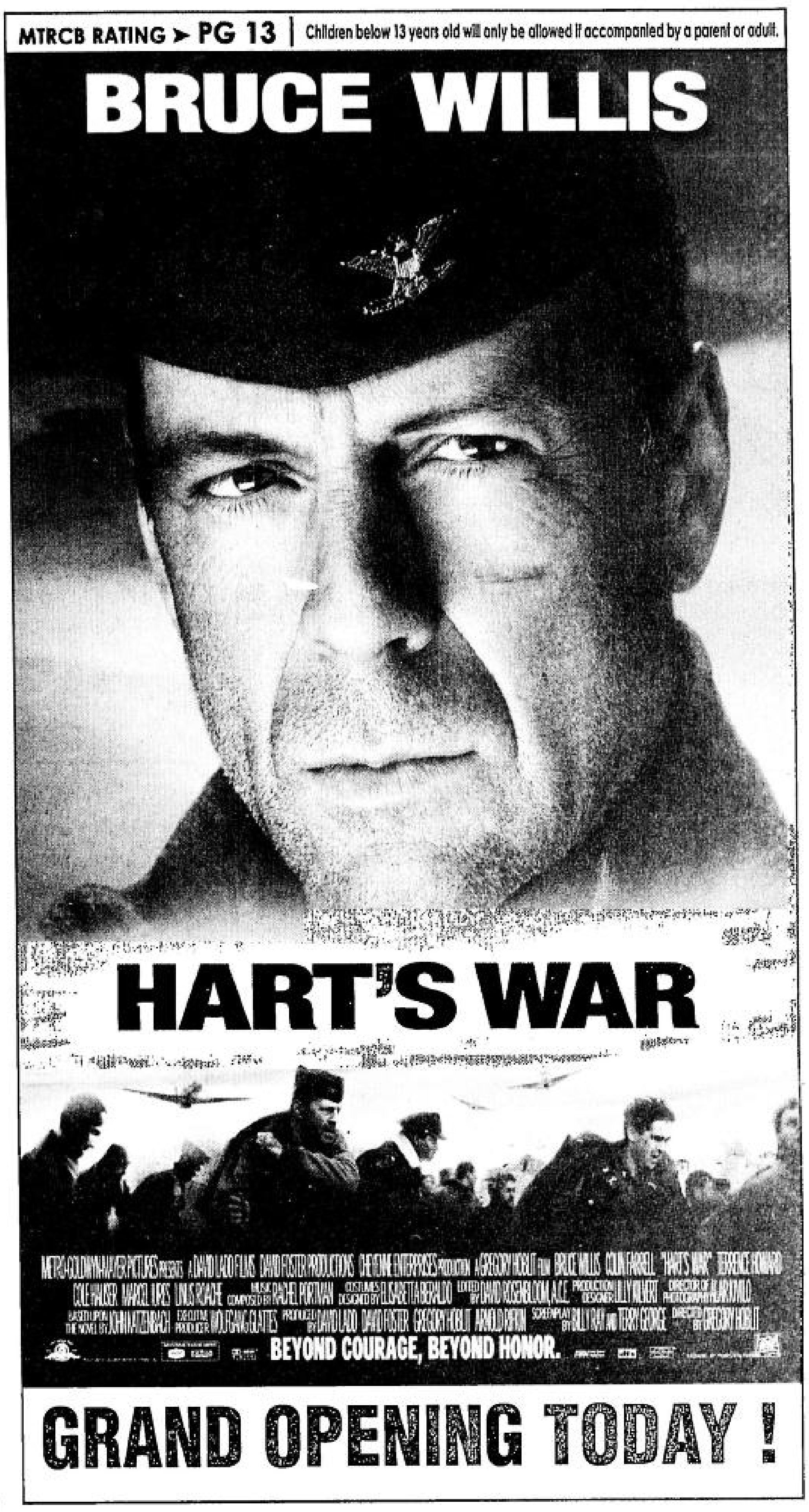
MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13
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HART'S WAR
BEYOND COURAGE, BEYOND HONOR.
GRAND OPENING TODAY !

ANG PAMBANSANG THEME SONG
NGAYON PELIKULA NA!
SALBAKUTA
ANDREW E.
BLAKDYAK
ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ
MAUI TAYLOR
S2PID LUV
KRISTINE JAKA MICHAEL FLORES
DIRECTED BY AL TANTAY
OPENS TODAY !

Viewers to take part in picking Manila filmfest winners

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MANILA Mayor **Lito Atienza** is making sure the Manila Film Festival in June will be a big event for the film industry as well as for the city. After all, the filmfest is coming back after a two-year hiatus, and Atienza is leaving no stone unturned to ensure its success.

"I believe a successful film industry can mold a nation," Atienza says. "Through the Manila Film Festival, I want to do my share in supporting the local film industry."

The six official entries will be "adopted" by the city's six districts, which will host different premiere nights for the films.

The stars will also participate in a grand *flores de Mayo*. There will be no parade of floats this time. Instead, a motorcade will bring the stars around in the districts.

"We decided to do away with the huge floats because they can only pass through the major streets," Atienza explains. "The stars will go on a motorcade which will pass even the small streets, so more residents can see them."

The stars will participate in "Sama sa Masa," a special day where fans can meet and mingle with them.

Dolphy was supposed to star in a comedy, "Yes, Babe . . . That's My Daddy," with **Jolina Magdangal** for the comedian's RVQ Productions. But the entry was pulled out since Dolphy could not start shooting early enough to meet the festival deadline.

Star Cinema's "Jologs" also backed out, and the screening committee had to accommodate two more film scripts to complete the six official entries.

This year's Manila Film Festival entries are led by Viva Films' drama, "Magkapatid," starring **Sharon Cuneta, Judy Ann Santos**, and **Christopher de Leon**, directed by **Joel Lamangan.**

Rudy Fernandez stars in Maverick Films' action-drama, "Diskarte," with **Ara Mina**, directed by **Boy Vinarao.**

Joyce Jimenez and **Piolo Pascual** team up for the first time in Regal Films' "Sweethearts," directed by **Maryo J. de los Reyes.**

Neo Films fields the fantasy-comedy, "Super B Saves the Day," starring **Rufa Mae Quinto** and directed by **Joyce Bernal.**

World Arts Cinema has "Utang ni Tatang," starring **Joel Torre, Jeffrey Quizon, Mylene Dizon** and **Ronnie Lazaro.**

One controversial entry, however, is FLT Films' "Mama San," a sexy flick with **Barbara Milano, Elizabeth Oropesa** and **Jenine Desiderio.**

Some people are questioning Atienza's allowing the inclusion of a bold flick in the filmfest.

"That's why we have a screening committee, to determine if the films conform to the festival standards," Atienza explained. "We cannot allow anything lewd or pornographic."

The six entries will be shown simultaneously in Manila and in Iloilo, Cebu and Davao from June 12 to 25.

The awards' night will be called People's Choice Awards. Movie viewers will be asked to participate in determining the winners.

The board of jurors will have Atienza, two members of the city council, a member of the Actors' Guild, a talent manager, two producers who do not have entries in the filmfest and two theater owners.

Even the incentives have been increased this year. Upon submission of the complete material, the producer will receive P1 million in cash.

The best picture winner will receive P500,000, while the writer of the winning script will get P100,000.

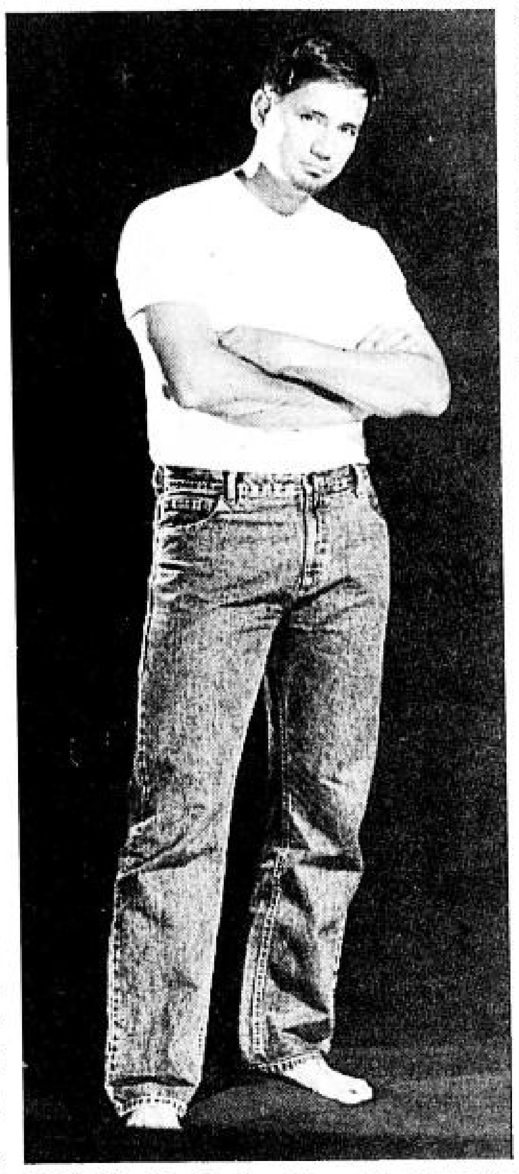
Atienza will also grant the six entries nearly P15 million in amusement tax exemption.

Kuh On Higher Ground

FOUR years ago, **Kuh Ledesma** became a born-again Christian and she has never looked back since. Even if she's still very much a part of the entertainment scene today, she makes known her faith both to fans and peers.

She is apparently happier now and more at peace. And despite the trials that come her way, she says nothing and no one can take that peace and happiness away from her.

Even her singing has been positively touched. She is a better and more dynamic performer and is obviously hardly affected by the intrigues and negative publicity that come her way.

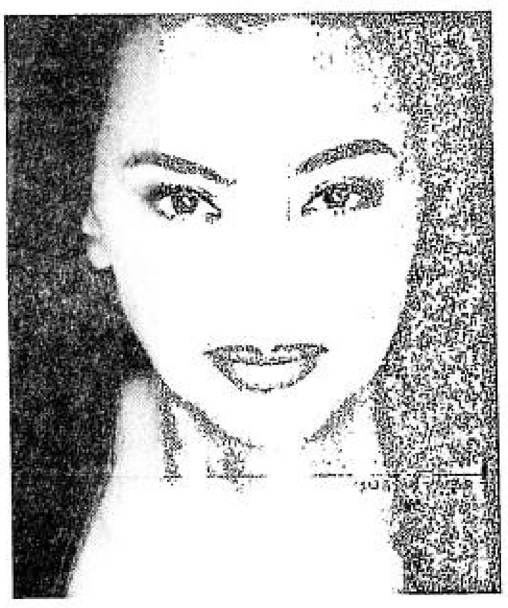


DENIM fashion by Bench modelled by actors Richard Gomez and Diether Ocampo.

As they say, you have to see it to believe it. You can see for yourself when Kuh returns to the Music Museum for a repeat of her concert, "On Higher Ground," on April 12 and 13, with her daughter **Isabella.**

The concert is produced by Artists in Touch (AIT), a cause very close to Kuh's heart. AIT is the ministry arm of the Philippine Campus Crusade for Christ (PCCC) for people in music, film, TV, theater and dance.

Proceeds of "On Higher Ground" will go to the PCCC Center for Discipleship and Evangelism.



LEDESMA. Happier and more at peace

Bench Overhauled

GLORIETTA will be a star-studded venue tonight when Bench presents its latest fashion show, "Overhauled," at the Activity Center.

"Overhauled" is the denim collection of Bench, which is making its debut in the Philippine Fashion Week. The fashion show is also Bench's show of support for the Professional Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

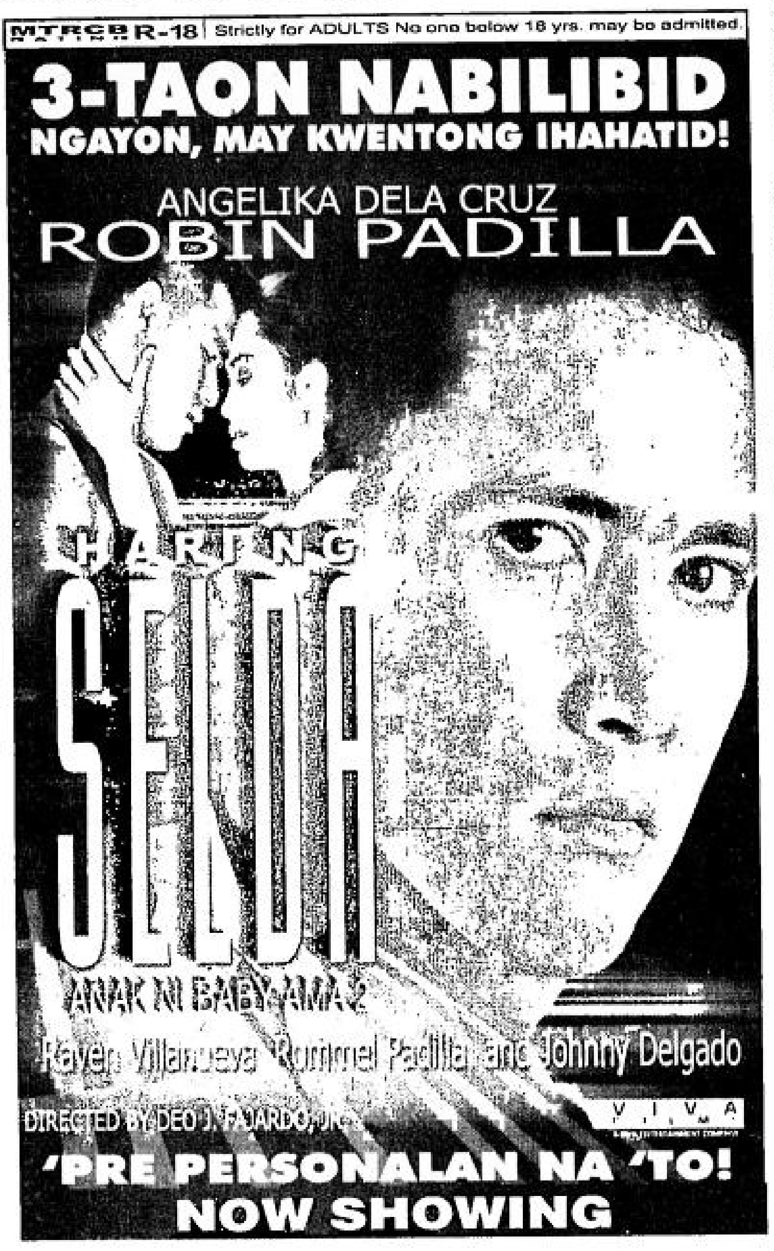
Richard Gomez may have been the original name synonymous with Bench and its success, but through the years, the garment line has also signed up other image models such as **Jomari Yllana, Borgy Manotoc, Diether Ocampo, Lucy Torres-Gomez** for Her Bench and sexy actress **Assunta de Rossi.** These stars are expected to grace the fashion event today.

Bench tapped designers **Ernest Santiago, Rhett Eala** and **Cecile Zarmoa** to interpret the "Overhauled" denim line. Also invited to grace the show are **Wendell Ramos, Antonio Aquitania,** newest Star Circle member **Robby Mananquil,** TV host **Marc Nelson,** teen heartthrob **John Pratts** and VJ **Mickey Randall.**

Natural Born Klubbers (NBK) will provide the sounds. **Jackie C. Aquino** and **Annette Coronel** will co-direct the show to be covered by E! Entertainment TV.

The Philippine Fashion Week is presented by **Joey Espino Jr.**'s Runway Productions and Cal Carrie's International Models Philippines.

A retrospective photo exhibit featuring PMAP models from the '80s to the present will also be a highlight of the Fashion Week.



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NGAYON, MAY KWENTONG IHAHATID!
ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ
ROBIN PADILLA
HARING SELDA
ANAK NI BABY AMA 2
Raven Villanueva Rommel Padilla and Johnny Delgado
DIRECTED BY DEO J. FAJARDO, JR.
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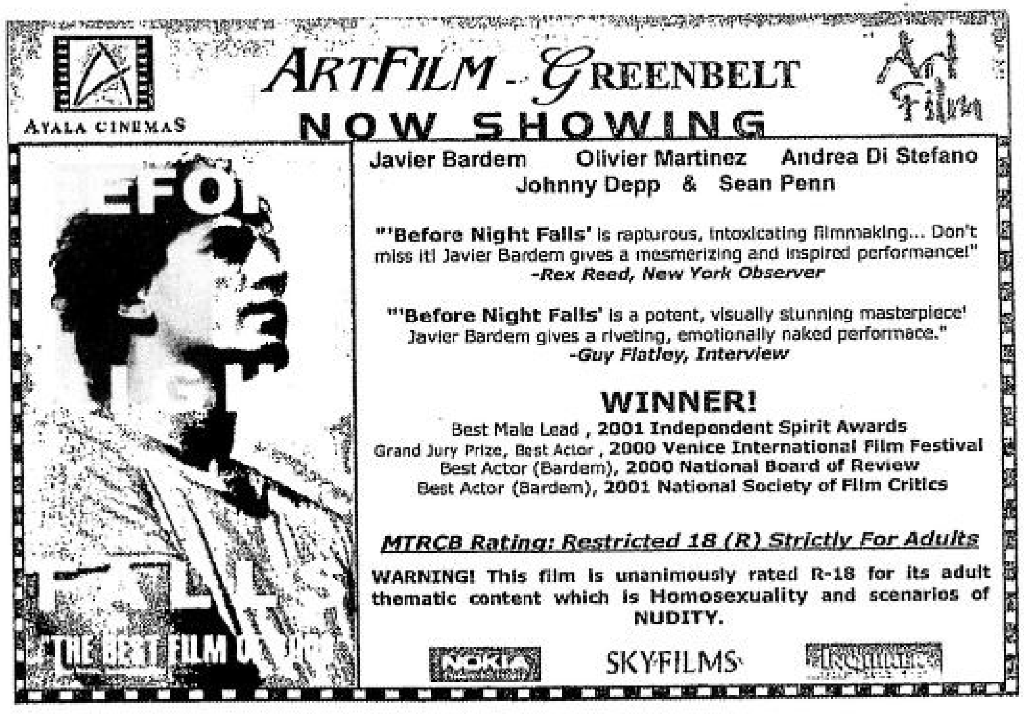
MIMIC 2 - P 13 12:35, 2:25, 4:15, 6:05, 7:55, 9:45	SHOWTIME - P 13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	HART'S WAR - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO - P 13 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30	EVIL WOMAN - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	ICE AGE - GP 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GREENBELT
NOW SHOWING
Javier Bardem Olivier Martinez Andrea Di Stefano
Johnny Depp & Sean Penn
"'Before Night Falls' is rapturous, intoxicating filmmaking... Don't miss it! Javier Bardem gives a mesmerizing and inspired performance!"
-Rex Reed, New York Observer
"'Before Night Falls' is a potent, visually stunning masterpiece' Javier Bardem gives a riveting, emotionally naked performace."
-Guy Flatley, Interview
WINNER!
Best Male Lead , 2001 Independent Spirit Awards
Grand Jury Prize, Best Actor , 2000 Venice International Film Festival
Best Actor (Bardem), 2000 National Board of Review
Best Actor (Bardem), 2001 National Society of Film Critics
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R) Strictly For Adults
WARNING! This film is unanimously rated R-18 for its adult thematic content which is Homosexuality and scenarios of NUDITY.
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WESLEY SNIPES
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GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
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BLADE II
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Oscar nominee from India dares to be different

Bollywood's 3-hour song-and-dance films to remain a staple

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Malaysia—Indian epic "Lagaan" failed to win an Oscar last month but was a clear winner at home when it swept seven film awards at India's equivalent of the Oscars here.

The film dominated the 2002 International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards late Saturday, picking up best picture, best director, best actor, best story, best music director, best lyrics and best female playback singer trophies out of 13 at stake.

India's first movie to earn an Oscar nomination in 14 years, "Lagaan" is part of a new genre of Indian movies that is changing the way Bollywood—Bombay's Hindi-language movie factory—works.

The $5.3-million epic tells the story of a group of villagers in the 1890s who have to play their British rulers at cricket to avoid paying a crippling "lagaan" or land tax.

"This is happiness," director Ashutosh Gowariker said after receiving his award.

Top Bollywood megastar Aamir Khan, who acted in and produced "Lagaan," was named best actor while Tabu clinched best actress award for a heart-wrenching performance as a dancer in an adult bar in "Chandni Bar."

The three-hour glitzy ceremony, hosted by 2000 Miss Universe Lara Dutta, lived up to the traditional Bollywood song-and-dance routines but was somewhat a let-down as half of the winners including Aamir and Tabu were absent.

The third IIFA awards shindig, designed to promote Indian cinema worldwide, was held in Malaysia as Bollywood eyes the growing Asian market after holding the previous events in London and South Africa.

Gowariker earlier said Lagaan's Oscar nomination had opened doors for Indian films to penetrate the English-speaking audience.

Out of some 1,000 films produced in India last year, he said only 25, including "Lagaan," "dared to be different, to break away from the norm and do different things."

This new breed of movies broaching on topics previously considered as taboo or conservative would change Bollywood, although he said the traditional song-and-dance routines would remain a staple.

"Music is an important genre for us," Gowariker said. "We are making movies only for India and any cross-over (in audience) is an added bonus."

Other top Indian directors agreed, saying Hollywood cooperation would not alter Indian films known for their lengthy production averaging three hours, song, dance and melodrama.

"Music is part of our day-to-day existence," said young director Karan Johar, whose film "Kahbi Kushi Kabhi Gham" (Sometimes Joy, Sometimes Sorrow) won two IIFA awards for best supporting actress and best male playback singer.

"It's a brilliant aspect of our films," Johar said. "We will be singing and dancing the whole of our careers. We are proud of being Indians and the Indianness will never leave us."

Johar's $8.3-million movie, the costliest ever churned out by Bollywood, also won six of 14 IIFA technical awards including sound recording, make-up, dialogue, art direction, background score and costume design.

Bollywood screen legend Amitabh Bachan, the only Indian film star to be honored with a wax likeness at the Madame Tussauds museum in London, was named Personality of the Year.

The 60-year-old Bachan, who is IIFA's patron, said he was surprised by the award and paid tribute to his country's "new breed of directors who are trying to give a new face to Indian cinema."

Director Mira Nair, whose "Monsoon Wedding" took home the Golden Lion at the Venice film festival last year, was presented a special award for outstanding Indian contribution to international cinema.

But she was absent and her mother accepted the award on her behalf, telling the audience she was the "producer of the director."

The three-hour extravaganza, held at Malaysia's casino resort of Genting Highlands, saw Miss Universe 1994-turned-actress Sushmita Sen performing a Nicole Kidman routine from Oscar-winning "Moulin Rouge."

The event was broadcast live to more than 20 million viewers in some 80 countries. ***AFP***

Heightened believability and empathy

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

TWENTY years after it was first shown, **Steven Spielberg**'s "E.T." is currently being released again for the enjoyment of a new generation of moviegoers. How is it holding up, this second time around?

Once more, we see the extraterrestrial being left behind by its spaceship, and being hunted down by some government operatives, and by scientists who want to dissect its body and study it.

Luckily, a family of humans led by a boy named Elliott (**Henry Thomas**) takes ET under its wing, and protects him from his relentless albeit well-intentioned pursuers.

In particular, Elliott and ET bond so completely that they end up thinking and feeling alike. Thus, if ET feels sick, so does Elliott.

Of course, this worries his mother, but in the end, this mental and emotional synchronicity works well for the two friends, who are able to help to each other before ET can contact his people in outer space, and arrange for a dramatic rescue, just in the nick of time.

The film's abiding strength is its ability to show that, despite their radical difference, the human boy and the extraterrestrial can understand and feel strongly for each other, to the extent of risking their lives.

Another strong point is the storytelling's childlike sense of wonder, which is effectively vivified by the sci-fi sleights of eye and imagination that the production is able to pull off.

Third, man's distrust and cupidity pointedly come to the fore in the actuation's of ET's pursuers. This is shown in instructive contrast to the innate kindness and lack of hidden motives of the children in the story.

Fourth, the audience gets a kick out of the ways that ET and his human friends are able to outwit the police officers and scientists who want to get their hands on ET.

Fifth, two of the child actors in the movie, Henry Thomas and **Drew Barrymore** (who plays his little sister Gertie) turn in very strong and endearing performances. Thomas comes off even better on second viewing than he did 20 years ago.

The impact and empathetic appeal of his portrayal are important to the film, because they give viewers somebody pure and courageous to root for, and thus make the movie a more personal viewing experience.

Little Drew Barrymore is another winner in this movie. She's both pretty and spunky, and provides a sassy contrast to the production's proceedings.

But the biggest winner here is still filmmaker Steven Spielberg, who serves notice with this early film that he is going to make a flourishing career of reviving the movie audience's all-important sense of wonder.

Finally, the movie comes on strong because it debunks the cynical notion that aliens from outer space are invariably out to do harm to the human race. The bond between Elliott and ET proves that friendship and even love are possible between different species.

So, how does "E.T." hold up after two decades? Quite well, thank you—except for its occasional slowness in developing its plot and themes, and some less than perfectly polished special effects. Not much harm done, though, and "E.T." is still a choice viewing treat.

In fact, some sequences, particularly those involving ET, benefit greatly from computer-generated enhancements that have widened the range of the alien's movements and facial expressions. The effect of these enhancements is heightened believability and empathy, because they make the character more natural and expressive.

This eventually results in greater thematic pertinence and emotional value, since viewers are drawn deeper into the characters' thoughts, conflicts and feelings.

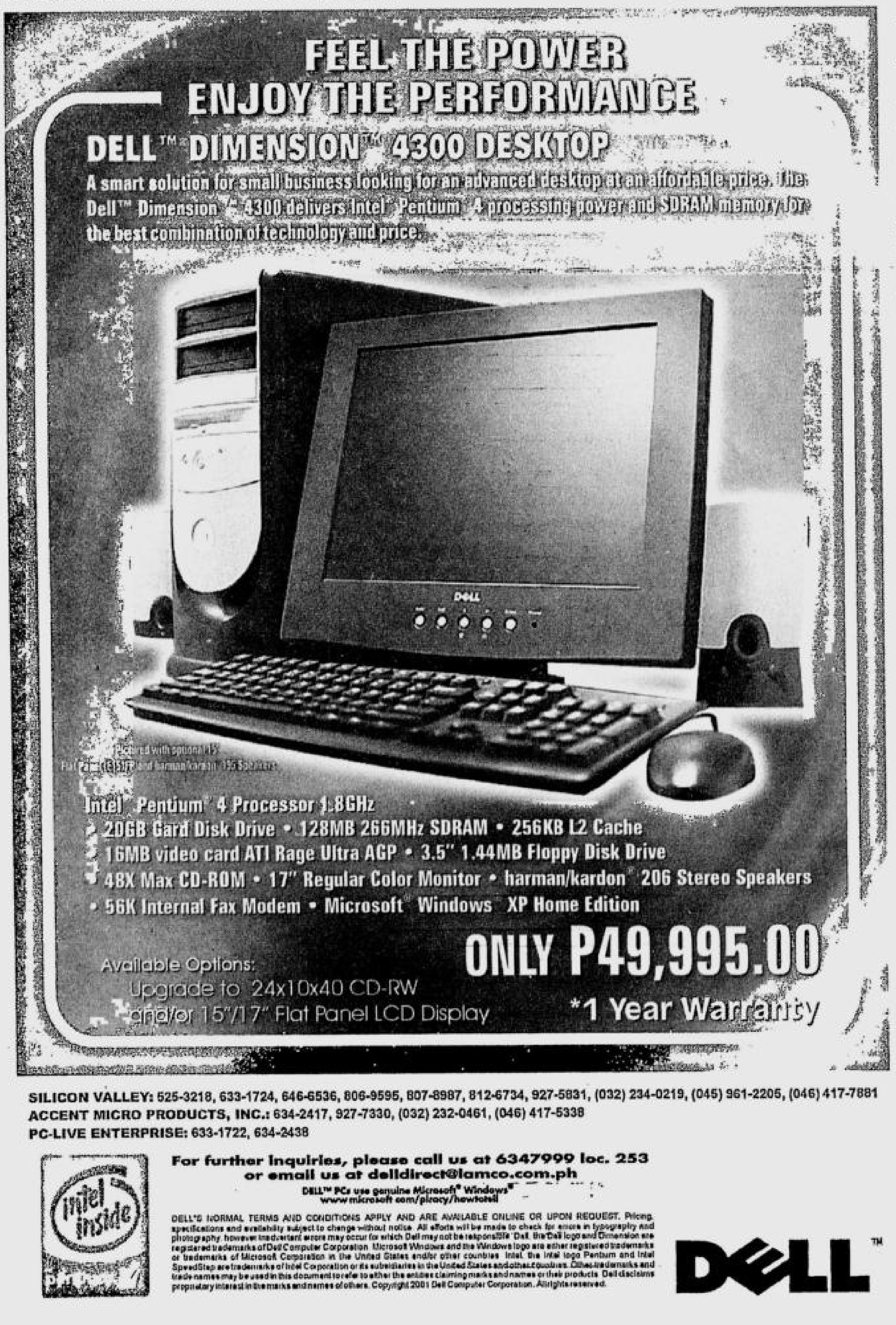
First major album

AYEN Munji has just released her first, major self-titled album. It features songs composed by **Ogie Alcasid** (the carrier single, "Bawat Gabi"), **Mon David**, **Margot Gallardo** and **Moy Ortiz**, **Gary Granada**, **Reuben Laurente**, **Danny Tan**, **Dodjie Simon**, **Joey Reyes**, **Nory Villena**, **Jun Serino**, **Hermie Uy**, **Fe Ayala** and **Ryan Cayabyab**—top-draw songsmiths, you'll agree.

The album is produced by SK Entertainment, with **Eugene Villaluz** as producer, Margot Gallardo as associate producer, and **Chang Bayaborda** as line producer.

Screen education seminar

THE SCREEN Education Academy for Teachers is conducting a seminar for high school and college teachers from April 17 to 19 at Teacher's Camp in Baguio City. Lecturers include **Rolando Carbonell**, **Kidlat Tahimik**, **Nick de Ocampo**, **Ditsi Carolino** and **Ed Cabagnot**. Call **Ben Pinga** at tel. no. 997-6448.



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DELL™

Kathleen Turner holds in her tummy as Mrs. Robinson on Broadway

NEW YORK—Gravelly-voiced actress Kathleen Turner has returned to Broadway, taking on the role of Mrs. Robinson in the latest adaptation of Mike Nichols' 1967 classic film "The Graduate."

The play, which opened Thursday at the Plymouth Theater, also stars young Hollywood stars Alicia Silverstone ("Clueless") and Jason Biggs ("American Pie") in the coming-of-age story of college graduate Benjamin Braddock and his seduction by the martini-steeped Mrs. Robinson.

Turner, who appeared to sold-out crowds for two years in London, earned rave reviews during the play's previews in Baltimore and Boston and helped to sell more than $5 million in advance tickets for her Broadway outing.

And just as Anne Bancroft did in Nichols' revolutionary movie, which was shot in the languid southern California sunlight, Turner, 48, bares it all—but for her feet, which remain in high heels.

For a full 20 seconds, the voluptuous Turner, who earned an Oscar nomination for her 1986 title role in "Peggy Sue Got Married," is nude, her body bathed in blue light.

And according to New York Times critic Ben Brantley, she holds in her stomach.

"Under the circumstances, wouldn't you?" he asked in his review Friday. ***AFP***

Trial of Crowe's alleged extortioners suspended due to 'biased media reports'

SYDNEY—The trial of three men accused of attempting to extort money from movie star Russell Crowe was adjourned Monday until June because of concerns over what were described as prejudicial media reports.

Philip Antony Cropper, 36, and Malcolm Brian Mercer, 37, are both accused of attempting to blackmail the Australian-based superstar.

Cropper, Mercer and another defendant, Mark James Potts, 42, are also charged with perverting the course of justice.

The trio has been accused of attempting to extort a large sum of money from Crowe in exchange for destroying a security video which allegedly showed Crowe in an altercation outside a Coffs Harbour night club in 1999.

In a pre-trial hearing at the Coffs Harbour District Court Monday, Judge David Freeman agreed to suspend the trial because of concerns about weekend media reports.

Judge Freeman told reporters that the trial deserved to proceed fairly.

"I don't want to lecture you," the judge told the reporters. "I do seek your cooperation." ***AFP***

'Panic Room' earns big bucks

LOS ANGELES — Actress Jodie Foster's new thriller "Panic Room" has scared up enough cash to retain top place at the North American box office for the second straight week.

The edgy crime flick took $18.2 million last weekend following its $30 million debut a week earlier, bringing its total receipts to $48.2 million, box office trackers Exhibitor Relations said.

In second place was "High Crimes," another thriller starring Ashley Judd, which took $14 million in its first weekend on North American screens, according to the final figures released by the firm.

It came in ahead of third-place family comedy "Ice Age," which took a healthy $13.5 million in its fourth week.

Dennis Quaid's baseball flick "The Rookie" took $11.7 million in its second week to score fourth place, while vampire flick "Blade II" took fifth place with $7.4 million.

Still hanging on in the top 10 was best picture Oscar winner "A Beautiful Mind, in ninth position with $2.5 million dollars in its 16th week in release. ***AFP***

BUSINESS

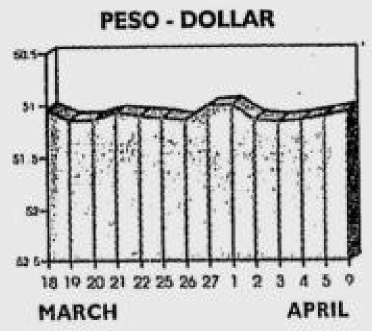
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** · Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

ADB sees 4% growth in RP economy

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.055 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 9, 2002

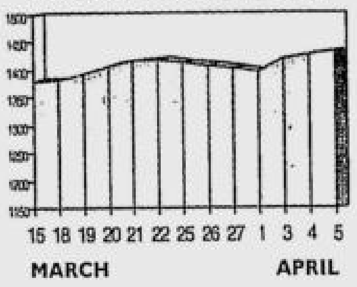
¥131.61 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 9, 2002

GOLD: $299.10/299.50
per ounce Hong Kong, April 9, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 0.8% on MidEast crisis

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices fell 0.8 percent yesterday on concerns the Middle East crisis would push domestic oil prices higher and cause an uptick in inflation, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 11.56 points to 1,421.30.

Turnover was lower at 245.558 million shares worth P562.914 million from Friday's 454.64 million shares valued at P1.2 billion.

"For the next two to three weeks, we might see a sharp decline in the market because of the uncertainties in the Middle East," said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities.

If other oil-producing Arab countries follow Iraq's decision to freeze oil exports for 30 days to pressure Israel to withdraw from Palestinian territories, there could be "a spiral in the prices of crude," he warned.

Higher pump prices, in turn, could have impact on prices of basic commodities locally.

"The concern is the threat of inflation in the near to medium term. With oil companies hinting they may increase prices before the end of the month, there's a big possibility of a spike in inflation in the next couple of months," said Lawrence de Leon of KGI Securities. *AFP*

By Doris C. Dumlao

BOOSTED by higher consumer spending and improved exports, the Philippine economy is likely to grow by 4 percent this year, up from last year's growth rate of 3.4 percent, the Asian Development Bank said in its annual economic report.

In its "Outlook for 2002," which was released yesterday, the ADB said that as the impact of the expected global economic recovery and the government's fiscal and economic reforms seeped in, the growth rate would further accelerate to 4.5 percent next year.

However, the World Bank, in a separate report also released yesterday, said that the Philippines would need a sustained economic growth of more than 5 percent yearly to reduce poverty from 26 percent of the population in 2000 to 18 percent by 2005.

"Average real economic growth of over 5 percent per year is feasible and would reduce poverty significantly. In contrast, the average growth of only 3 percent per year would mean only modest poverty reduction," the report said.

Between 1994 and 1997, the country's economic growth averaged 5 percent a year and poverty incidence "fell quickly, from 32 percent to 25 percent," said the World Bank report.

"Achieving a higher (growth) rate will require sustaining growth in the agricultural sector, a recovery in industrial exports and an improvement in the level of investment," the ADB report stressed.

The ADB's growth outlook for the Philippines for this year is well within the 4-percent to 4.5-percent GDP (gross domestic product) growth target of the government for the same period. It is, however, more bullish than the 3.6-percent growth projected by London-based Consensus Economics Inc., a private think-tank that collates growth forecasts from economic and financial institutions across 70 countries around the world.

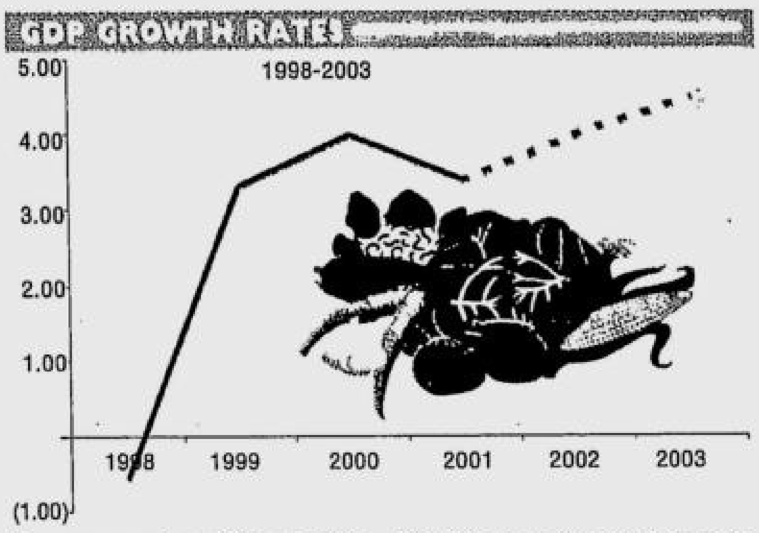
GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy in a given year.

From a contraction of 16.2 percent in the country's merchandise exports last year, the bank has projected a modest growth of 3 percent this year and 6 percent in 2003. Merchandise imports are likewise seen to post a 2.5-percent growth this year and 4 percent next year, a reversal of the 6.2-percent decline last year.

The bank also said investments in the country were likely to improve to 18 percent to 18.5 percent of the gross national product this year and in 2003. However, it said the improvement of physical infrastructure was needed to raise the level of investments. It said

ADB/ B4

GDP GROWTH RATES



BSP says key rates steady for 3 months

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said he expected inflation to be tame at below 4 percent per annum for the next three months, which would allow the bank to keep key overnight rates steady during the period.

"For the next three months, there is definitely sufficient flexibility for us to keep interest rates at these (current) levels given the low inflation and a stable exchange rate," Buenaventura told reporters.

The bank's key overnight borrowing rate is now at 7.0 percent, the lowest since 1992, and its overnight lending rate is at 9.25 percent.

Buenaventura projected that inflation would stay below 4 percent or an average of 3.7 percent for this quarter.

He said that the BSP was now studying possible worst-case scenarios on the impact of the rising world oil prices on inflation, wages, power and transportation and the measures to address them.

Markets have been worried that rising oil prices could lead to an increase in inflation and in interest rates. Annual inflation in March ticked up to 3.6 percent from 3.4 percent in February.

The BSP chief also projected that the peso-dollar exchange rate would remain "very stable" with the expected increase in the inflow of portfolio and foreign direct investments and the improvement in exports.

"It will play between the high 50's and very low 51," he said. The peso closed at 51.055 to the dollar yesterday from its previous close of 51.095.

In another development, the coupon rate of the 5-year Treasury bonds remained unchanged yesterday at 13 percent, or the same rate as that during the last auction in February.

The Bureau of Treasury auctioned off a new series of 5-year bonds worth P3 billion and awarded it in full although total tenders amounted to P4.407 billion, which meant an over-subscription of P1.407 billion. ***Elena R. Torrijos, with a report from Reuters***

AYALA LAND, INC.

₱3 Billion ALI Bonds

Offer Period: ▶ April 10 to 24, 2002

Issue Dates: Tranche A: April 17, 2002
Tranche B: April 24, 2002

Minimum Investment: ▶ ₱50,000.00

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BPI Capital Corporation

Joint Lead Underwriters: BPI Capital Corporation Tels. 845-5598; 845-5607
FIRST METRO Investment Corporation Tels. 840-5751 (Makati Office); 241-4301(Binondo Office)

Co-Lead Underwriters: PCI Capital Corporation Tel. 840-7000
BDO Capital & Investment Corporation Tels. 636-0961; 638-6298

Participating Underwriters: AB Capital & Investment Corporation Tels. 817-5607; 818-6678
RCBC Capital Corporation Tel. 894-9000
PHILIPPINE COMMERCIAL CAPITAL INC. Tel. 815-0636
UCPB Investment Banking Division Tel. 811-9913

1. What are the ALI Bonds?
These are securities constituting the direct, unconditional and general obligations of Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI).

2. Who can purchase the ALI Bonds?
Any investor who has at least ₱50,000.00 can purchase the Bonds. Purchases in excess of the minimum shall be in multiples of ₱50,000.00.

3. What is the term of the ALI Bonds?
The Bonds shall be redeemed in full by ALI after five (5) years and one (1) day from issue date.

4. How much will an investor earn from investing in the Bonds?
The Bonds shall carry a floating interest rate (to be set every quarter) which shall be the sum of the Base Rate plus a spread of 2.0% p.a. The Base Rate shall be the average bid yield of the applicable 91-day T-bills based on the secondary market bids as displayed on the MART 1 page of Bloomberg.

Interest on the Bonds shall be subject to a final withholding tax of 20% or such rate as may be provided by law or regulation, which shall be withheld at source.

▶ Sample Computation ▶

Face Value	₱50,000.00
Interest Rate p.a.	8.0%*
Gross Interest Due for 90 days	1,000.00
Less 20% Withholding Tax	200.00
Net Interest Due for 90 days	800.00

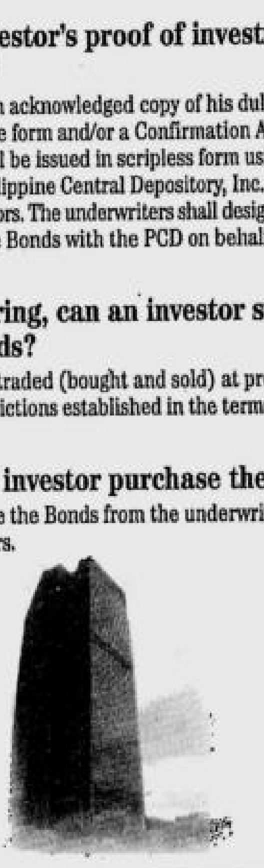
(*Assumed Interest Rate of 8.0% for purposes of illustration only.)

5. How can an investor purchase the Bonds?
The investor fills up an Application to Purchase form and submits this together with two (2) valid IDs and payment to any of the underwriters. Institutional and/or corporate investors must submit copies of their respective board resolutions and such other requirements as indicated in the Application to Purchase form.

6. What is an investor's proof of investment in the Bonds?
The investor is given an acknowledged copy of his duly accomplished Application to Purchase form and/or a Confirmation Advice or Confirmation of Sale. The Bonds shall be issued in scripless form using the scripless book-entry system of the Philippine Central Depository, Inc. (PCD). No certificate shall be issued to investors. The underwriters shall designate a PCD Participant for the lodgment of the Bonds with the PCD on behalf of their respective bondholders.

7. After the offering, can an investor still purchase or trade the Bonds?
Yes, the Bonds can be traded (bought and sold) at prevailing market prices subject to trading restrictions established in the terms and conditions of the Bonds.

8. Where can an investor purchase the Bonds?
Investors can purchase the Bonds from the underwriters' offices, branches and/or business centers.



Ayala Land to launch public offering of ₱3B worth of bonds

By Elena R. Torrijos

AYALA Land Inc., the country's biggest property developer, will launch today a public offering of P3 billion worth of five-year and one-day floating rate bonds.

Documents sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that Ayala Land would use proceeds of the offering—estimated at around P2.93 billion—to retire P2 billion in debts.

The company would use P800 million for its capital expenditures and another P130 million as a permanent working capital.

Ayala Land said the bonds would be released in two sets of P1.5 billion each.

It offered to pay a quarterly interest rate based on a coupon of 2 percent spread over secondary market bids for 91-day treasury bills as displayed in Bloomberg's MART 1 page.

The bonds can be purchased at denominations of P50,000, according to SEC documents.

Ayala Land has tapped BPI Capital Corp. as issue manager.

Philippine Ratings Services Corp., an affiliate of Standard & Poor's, has rated Ayala Land's bonds a "PRS Aa" given the property developer's strong business franchise and good financial position.

A "PRS Aa" rating means Ayala Land has a strong capacity to meet its financial commitments.

It also means that the issue has a small degree of investment risk, although margins of protection may not be as large as in "PRS-Aaa" issues.

"Fluctuations of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risks appear somewhat larger than for PRS Aaa-rated securities."

Originally, Ayala Land planned to offer only P2 billion in bonds but increased it to P3 billion after pre-selling by underwriters showed the issue was oversubscribed.

Apart from BPI Capital, the underwriters of the bonds are First Metro Investments Corp., PCI Capital Corp., BDO Capital Corp., AB Capital Corp., RCBC Capital Corp., Philippine Commercial Capital Inc. and the United Coconut Planters Bank.

Ayala Land said it would allocate P4.2 billion in total capital expenditures this year for several ongoing and proposed development projects, a major portion of which would go to the development of shopping centers, residential lots and townhouses.

The company is currently involved in the ongoing re-development of Greenbelt in Makati and the establishment of "Market! Market!," a retail development on a 9.8-hectare piece of property in Fort Bonifacio.

Union Cement reports 480% surge in 2001 profits

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

UNION Cement Corp., the country's largest cement producer, saw its profits soar by 480 percent in 2001, belying the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp.'s claim that the industry had been wallowing in red ink due to an import surge since 1999.

Based on its annual report to stockholders, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, Union Cement said its net income grew to a "spectacular" P354.809 million in 2001 from P61.167 million in 2000.

Union Cement said this would be the second straight year that it recorded a growth in earnings since it finalized the merger of Phinma-run companies Hi Cement Corp., Davao Union Cement Corp. and Bacnotan Cement Corp. in mid-1999.

The merger came following the entry into these companies of Swiss cement giant Holcim Ltd., one of the world's Big Three cement players, the other two being Cemex and Lafarge-Blue Circle.

Union Cement then took over 89 percent of domestic production.

Union Cement said the merger was a step in the right direction, as it reversed the pattern of losses that merged companies had faced individually.

The merger led to more aggressive sales and marketing efforts, increased operating efficiencies and sound financial management, it said.

The profit surge was significant considering that sales fell by 10 percent to P6.387 billion in 2001 from P7.124 billion in 2000.

Also, it was achieved amid a dormant construction industry, a worldwide retrenchment caused by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, and political aftershocks from the change in administration early last year.

Buoyed by its impressive showing in 2001, Union Cement boasted that the company was now poised for competition in the new global marketplace.

IMF questions Pagcor, Camago securitization plan

AN INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund expert on securitization has expressed doubt that the government will be able to gain anything substantial from the proposed securitization of the future earnings of either the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. or the Camago-Malampaya gas project.

In a working paper written for the IMF's fiscal affairs department, Nigel Chalk said a proposal for Pagcor to issue P18.5 billion in three- to six-year bonds backed by revenue flows from the state-owned firm's gaming operations seemed primarily designed "to artificially improve" the national government's budget position.

"It is unclear what are the economic advantages to such an arrangement compared to the national government borrowing directly," Chalk said.

He said since the entire operation would be done locally and denominated in pesos—thus, bearing all the exchange rate, transfer and convertibility risks of a normal sovereign issue—the transaction would not receive a credit rating higher than the one currently enjoyed by the Philippines.

Approval of PLDT loan with JBIC seen

By Abigail L. Ho

INDUSTRY giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s loan application with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation may well be on its way to approval, a person familiar with the matter said.

The source disclosed that PLDT's loan application had already been approved by JBIC's credit committee and was currently awaiting the verdict of the JBIC board.

This was almost tantamount to a final approval as the credit committee posed very stringent requirements and employed tough screening processes, he added.

"They are still processing our credit application, but we'll most likely hear from them this week," the source said. "The credit committee has already approved the application. With its very stringent requirements, we can more or less say that the loan application is okay."

PLDT is targeting JBIC's approval of its loan application within the first half of the year. This was only one component of the dominant carrier's overall debt management initiative to help pay off $1.3 billion worth of maturing obligations from this year to 2004.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that one its creditors, German development bank Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau (KfW), named as one of its conditions for disbursement of bulk of PLDT's $149-million loan was JBIC's release of a $100-million loan.

Aside from the JBIC loan and the refinancing deal it closed with KfW early in the year, PLDT also planned to issue $350 million in bonds.

ADB readying new Napocor funding plan

THE ASIAN Development Bank is currently in talks with the government for a possible new financing this year for state-run power producer National Power Corp.

In a news briefing on Tuesday, ADB country director Thomas Crouch said there had been discussions with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. for an additional $750-million borrowing plan.

Psalm assumed Napocor's assets and liabilities as of end-2000.

"All I can say is that we're in discussions with them on how that financing gap may be filled this year and if there's an opportunity for ADB to be involved on a project-financing level or by using its credit enhancement facility such as actual credit guarantee," he said.

"Then we will certainly explore opportunities with the government to meet the financing requirements of the power sector," he added.

This possible new assistance, Crouch said, "builds on the work that we have already done with regard to the power sector restructuring."

Two years ago, the ADB provided a loan to the government to restructure the power industry. The possible additional funding, he said, would be used to help the industry continue with its privatization program.

ALING TENTAY

Unheralded inventor of 'patis' leaves lasting legacy

By Christine A. Gaylican

CALL it a case of reverse branding. It should've been the family name sticking to the product. In this case, the product inadvertently became the family name.

"It is really funny, but some have even thought that our surname is 'Patis'," says Velia Javier-Cruz.

Cruz is heir to a business built on the name of her mother—Aling Tentay—and on a product her mother's name has become synonymous with—"*patis*," or fish sauce.

Cruz, executive vice president of the Tentay Food and Sauces Inc., says she doesn't mind the association. It is, after all, a business built on the hard work and perseverance of a woman whose steely resolve and keen business sense practically gave life to an entire town's economy.

In the mid-1940s, Ruperta "Aling Tentay" David was working for the family business in Navotas. The family was then engaged in fishing and brokerage, and her job was to take care of the excess catch. She first tried salting them, so they'd last longer or be sold as dried fish. Before the fish dried, however, they disintegrated, so she thought of storing them in jars. The fish disintegrated, turning into a liquid substance that was great at adding a salty flavor to ordinary food. And the rest, as the cliché goes, is history.

Aling Tentay began selling her concoction to relatives and friends, and pretty soon, orders started pouring in. "Tentay Patis" was born.

The business was officially registered in 1949 after World War II.

Cruz said since registering trademarks and patents was not widely practiced then, her mother could not officially claim to having invented the "*patis*," but the family's and company's history should speak for itself.

PATIS
CANE VINEGAR
COCO
COCO
VINEGAR

ALING Tentay's legacy

With an initial capital of P5,000 and two helpers, Aling Tentay fermented and bottled *patis* on empty soft-drink bottles and placed them on native reed crates known as "*tiklis*."

"They started marketing it within the vicinity, in the towns of Navotas and Bulacan. That was also how Navotas became known for its *patis* products," Cruz said.

After five years of selling *patis* locally, Aling Tentay started exporting her products to Hawaii in 1953.

The business prospered even more when Aling Tentay married Julio Javier, a banker, who did not hesitate to be involved in the business himself.

"Since my father was a banker, he had a network in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and wherever he went, he would bring along some of the products to promote them to friends and clients," Cruz said.

To maintain quality, the family business uses fresh fish in producing *patis*, especially now that it exports to the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan and other countries in Asia.

"It is not true that any kind of fish could produce good *patis*. We use fresh fish because that will make our products pass hestamine tests. If a product fails these tests for export, people are more susceptible to allergies when they take the product," Cruz explained.

Cruz said one of the innovations she and her husband introduced since they took over the business was to use different standards for different markets.

"Different countries have different standards, even for fish sauce. In the United States, they look for the dirt. In Canada, they look for hestamine. In both Canada and Europe, they go for non-carcinogenic soy sauce," she said.

Tentay's exports to Japan, which contain no preservatives or additives, bagged for the company the Golden Shell Award from the Department of Trade and Industry in 1996.

"We are not afraid to spend on product innovation just to enter new markets," says Cruz.

"We are still working on ways to improving the business. Because it is not just a business but a legacy passed on to us by my parents," she adds.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, April 9, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67.50	67.5	67	67.5	522,800
China Banking Corp.	620.0	620	615	615	180
CityState Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.50	42	41	41.5	245,800
First E-Bank Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	42.50	43	42	42.5	302.700
Philippine National Bank	63.00	63	63	63	400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.50	13	12.5	12.5	31.800
Security Bank Corp.	19.50	19.5	19.5	19.5	12,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.50	24	23.5	23.5	144,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1340	1330	1340	2,900
Sun Life Financial Serv.	10890	1090	1080	1090	32,530
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Diversified Fin. Network	3.50	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.6800	.68	.68	.68	1,680,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805.0	810	805	810	15,430
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0600	.06	.06	.06	2,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.2700	.27	.27	.27	100,000
Manila Bulletini Pub. Corp.	3.00	3	3	3	6,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	.2350	.24	.235	.24	190,000
Phil. Long Dis. Tel. Co.	560.0	560	545	550	72,110
Ivantage Corp.	.5100	.51	.51	.51	100,000
Philweb.Com. Inc.	.0210	.021	.019	.02	31,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.50	31.5	31	31	34,700
Manila Electric Co. B	48.00	48.5	47	47	1,081,300
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.72	2,515,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.86	2,705,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9000	.9	.9	.9	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l SV	2.60	2.65	2.65	2.6	1,163,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.2900	.29	.29	.29	100,000
Republic Cement Corp.	.4500	.45	.45	.45	190,000
Sanitary Wares MFG. Corp.	.1500	.15	.15	.15	2,070,000
Union Cement Corp.	.6000	.6	.6	.6	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.10	2.1	2.1	2.1	254,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.00	13	13	13	561,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	22.75	22.75	22.25	22.25	73,500
RFM Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	548,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.70	1.7	1.7	1.7	15,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.00	48.5	48	48	79,900
San Miguel Corp. B	62.00	62	61	61.5	138,200
Vitarich Corp.	.3500	.35	.35	.35	200,000
HOLDINGS FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & HDG A	.5000	.5	.49	.49	20,000
Ayala Corp.	6.40	6.5	6.2	6.2	10,572,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	.0800	.09	.08	.08	500,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.00	2	2	2	317,000
APC Group Inc.	.1350	.135	.135	.135	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0070	.007	.007	.007	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.00	3	2.95	2.95	124,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	3.80	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	.5800	.58	.58	.58	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	.1250	.125	.125	.125	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	.7800	.789	.75	.76	7,440,000
A Brown Company Inc.	.4500	.45	.45	.45	50,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	.1200	.12	.12	.12	450,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.2700	.28	.27	.28	20,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	.0950	.0975	.095	.0975	2,600,000
First Phil. Hldgs Corp.	31.00	31	31	31	71,100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.82	1.82	281,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.20	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
MEDCO Holdings	.1600	.16	.16	.16	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	.8800	.88	.84	.87	1,710,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.6300	.63	.63	.63	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.3000	.31	.29	.29	9,390,000
Music Corp.	.3100	31	.31	.31	30,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	.1600	.16	.16	.16	500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	.9000	.9	.89	.89	90,000
Solid Group Inc.	.3700	.37	.37	.37	110,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.50	4.1	3.5	4.1	13,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	.0725	.0725	.0725	.0725	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.1400	.14	.14	.14	340,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs. Inc. "A"	.9100	.91	.91	.91	3000,000
Interphil Labs. Inc. "B"	.9100	.91	.91	.91	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.0900	.09	.09	.09	100,000
Pryce Corp.	.0800	.08	.08	.08	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.6300	.64	.62	.62	15,310,000
Fairmont Hldgs. Inc.	.5900	.59	.59	.59	70,000
Mondragon Int'l Inc.	.4400	.44	.44	.44	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
DMCI Hldgs. Inc.	770.0	770	770	770	5,900
Globe Telecom Hldg.	12.50	12.5	12.5	12.5	11,700
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0002	.0002	.0002	.0002	4,000,000
RFM Corp.	4.50	4.5	4.5	4.5	7,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) "AA"	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series "BB"	10.00	10	10	10	600
Philweb.Com Inc. Warrants	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	15,000,000
Ayala Land Inc.	7.30	7.3	7.2	7.2	17,960,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.2900	.29	.29	.29	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.4700	.47	.46	.46	2,770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.3100	.31	.3	.3	1,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.36	2.4	2.36	2.38	8,186,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.3600	.36	.36	.36	150,000
SM Dev. Corp.	.9600	.98	.96	.98	790,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.80	6.8	6.7	6.8	9,200,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	.0725	.0725	.0725	.0725	900,000
Urbancorp Realty Inc.	.2000	.2	.2	.2	20,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min. & Devt.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	80,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	.0480	.048	.046	.046	21,800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "B"	.2350	.235	.235	.235	650,000
Omico Corp.	.0044	.0044	.0044	.0044	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. "A"	.2500	.25	.25	.25	1,150,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	.2800	.28	.26	.26	700,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.0900	.09	.09	.09	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	.0034	.0034	.0034	.0034	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0046	.0046	.0046	.0046	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	.0046	.0046	.0046	.0046	3,000,000
Pacifica	.0140	.014	.014	.014	2,600,000
Sinophil Corp.	.0750	.075	.075	.075	200,000

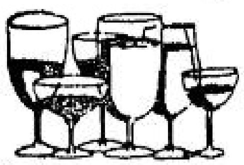
CURRENCIES

April 9, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.142988	1.000000	51.1080
Japan	Yen	0.008691	0.007604	0.3886
United Kingdom	Pound	1.636301	1.431600	73.1662
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146548	0.128215	6.5528
Switzerland	Franc	0.682300	0.596944	30.5086
Canada	Dollar	0.716967	0.627274	32.0587
Singapore	Dollar	0.623052	0.545108	27.8594
Australia	Dollar	0.602206	0.526870	26.9273
Bahrain	Dinar	3.031959	2.652661	135.5722
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304789	0.266660	13.6285
Brunei	Dollar	0.619002	0.541565	27.6783
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000105	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.026276	0.022989	1.1749
UAE	Dirham	0.311204	0.272272	13.9153
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000759	0.0388
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.874900	44.7144
Brazil	Real	0.499121	0.436681	22.3179
Denmark	Kroner	0.134477	0.117654	6.0131
India	Rupee	0.023418	0.020488	1.0471
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.300826	0.263193	13.4513
Mexico	New Peso	0.126717	0.110865	5.6661
New Zealand	Dollar	0.494458	0.432601	22.1094
Norway	Kroner	0.130978	0.114593	5.8566
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019066	0.016681	0.8525
South Africa	Rand	0.010264	0.089797	4.5893
Sweden	Kroner	0.110189	0.096404	4.9270
Syria	Pound	0.022193	0.019417	0.9924
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032769	0.028670	1.4653
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001249	0.001093	0.0559

Calatagan cackle

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THE 1890-ERA lighthouse in Calatagan, a local attraction among the well-heeled families who have converted the craggy Batangas shoreline as a weekend Forbes Park, is being refurbished and converted into a museum-cum-restaurant by a group headed by former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste.

That is the good news.

To achieve this noble aim, the husband of environmentalist Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste has reclaimed the land below the lighthouse promontory, from whose grounds will rise a mini-resort catering to the paying public.

Instead of following the contours of the shoreline, the reclaimed land is a rectangular box that, from afar, looks like a floating pier grafted onto the ragged ravine.

Together with its seawall, the reclaimed resort rises no more than 3 feet from the water, a not particularly reassuring thought during the typhoon season.

The Leviste group reportedly plans to build for-rent seafront cottages for those who want to be neighbors with the likes of Chito Madrigal and Enrique Razon Jr. even for a day. The lighthouse itself is inside the planned Tan Yu hotel-resort complex whose development has been suspended following the Asian currency crisis.

We do not know how the potential drove of rubber-neckers would impact on the elusive exclusivity-desirability equation that is so valued among the old-money families.

But one thing is sure. You would not want to be caught inside one of the planned cottages down below during a particularly violent storm.

Calatagan encampment

AND speaking of Calatagan, a Chinoy neighbor of the Madrigals, the Reyeses and Ambassador Raul Goco has become the neighborhood annoyance after the Chinoy successfully built a cement wall right along the beach, forcing the neighbors to wade on the water and step on the fragile corals if they want to continue with their walk and reach the other side.

In other words, whatever happened to the x-meter easement rule that is supposed to keep the beaches open to the public?

Then again, if buildings can be built on top of a Quiapo *estero* and descendants of Spanish encomienderos can turn Makati parks into carparks, what is a few meters of public beach being taken over for private use?

Short takes

- !OYE! The ruling Castilaloys of International Container Terminal Services have nominated ex-Far East Bank president Octavio Victor Espiritu as independent director come the April 18 stockholders' meeting.

OV, who is spending more time now at the Manila Golf Club as its new president, is joining fellow golfer/MGC director Jose Ibazeta at the Ictsi board.

To make sure that its financial reporting stays on the straight and narrow, Ictsi is proposing to retain, no snickers please, SGV/Arthur Andersen as external auditor.

- JAZZ singer Diana Krall is coming back to Manila in June as part of an Asian tour, with ABS-CBN—no less than Gabby Lopez himself took a keen interest—agreeing to underwrite one night of her two-night concert.

ABS-CBN plans to produce a TV special out of the Krall concert.

Heard through the grapevine

AFTER the Banco de Oro IPO, taipan Henry Sy will likely revive his long-term desire to take over China Bank either through a buyout of the third-generation Dee family or an outright merger with his bank.

The taipan has been quietly buying up China Bank shares, no matter how few become available in the stock market. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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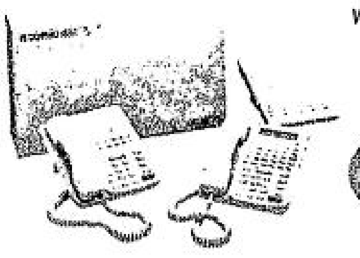

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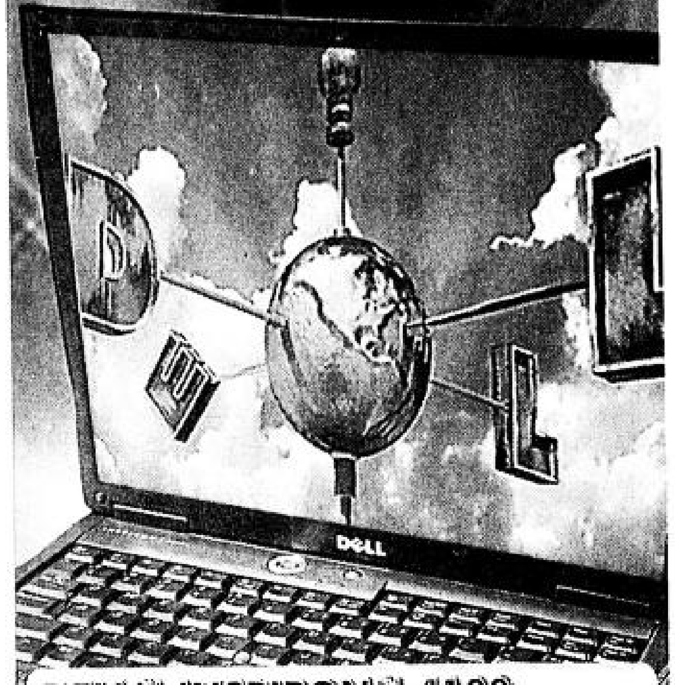

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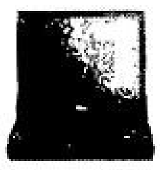

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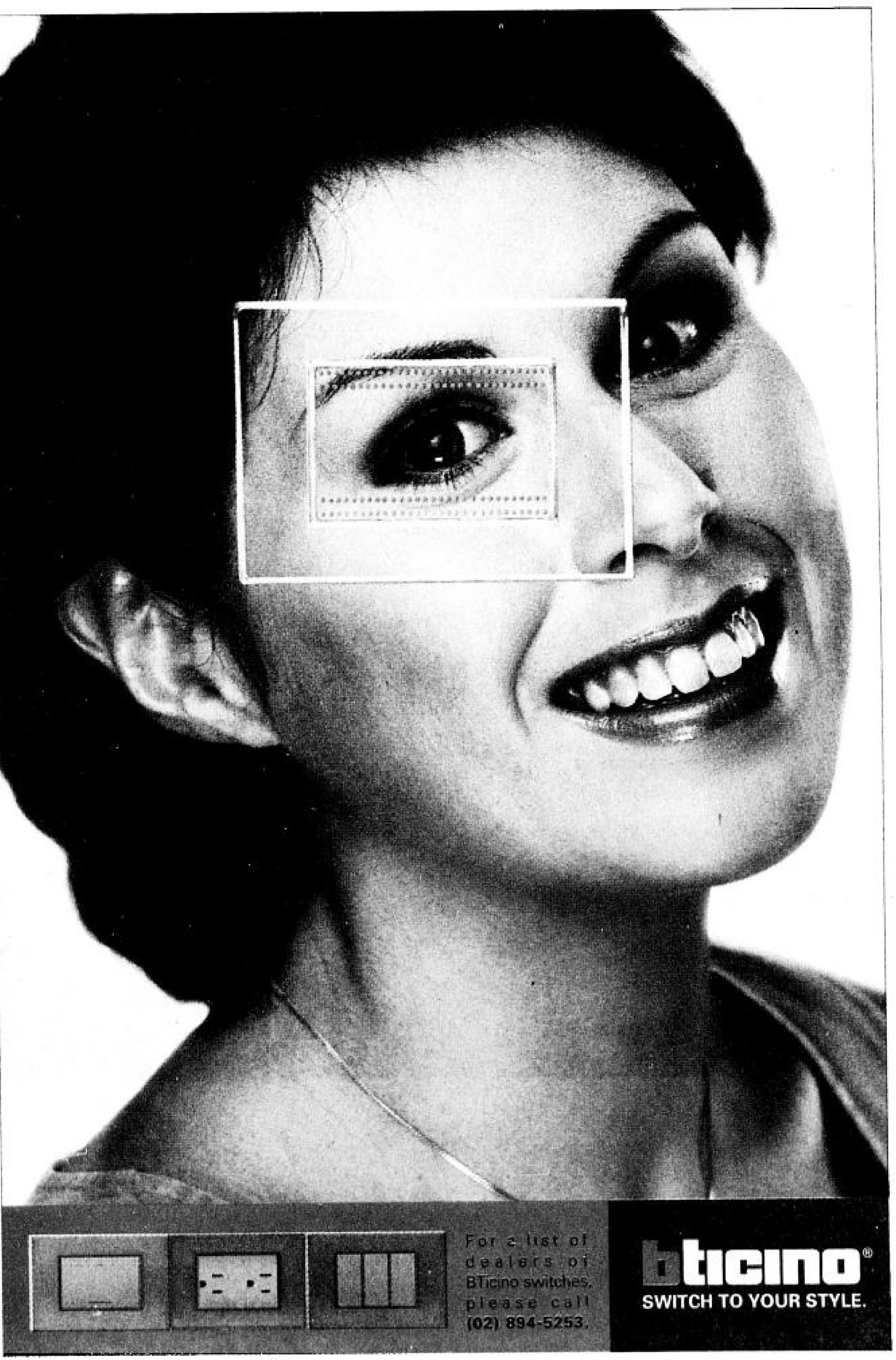

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Biotech seen to help achieve food sufficiency

QUESTIONS & Answers

AGRICULTURE Secretary Leonardo Montemayor recently signed the Macapagal administration's guidelines on the importation of biotechnology-processed plants and plant products in line with the government's efforts to attain food sufficiency. The threat of the possible recurrence of the El Nino phenomenon in the middle of this year resurrects the food sufficiency issue in the country. In an interview, ***Noel Borlongan*** *of the local office of Monsanto, a global agricultural research company, shares his and his company's views on the issue. Monsanto is a major private sector supporter of the President's food sufficiency program. It collaborates with the Philippine Rice Research Institute on efforts to maximize the productivity of agricultural lands in the country.*

Question: How dependent is the Philippines on imported staple food?

Answer: We import around 7 to 10 percent of our rice supply yearly despite having 900,000 hectares of irrigated land planted to rice. We also import corn, wheat, milk.

Q: How much does the country spend for food/grains importation?

A: The Philippines imported $900M worth of food imports from January to June 2001 alone. Annualize this and you get close to $2 billion a year. In the first six months last year, we spend $109M on imported rice.

Q: Do you think we can totally eliminate imports?

A: We used to be a rice-exporting country. We can attain self-sufficiency with corn if we choose to be one.

Q: How is that possible?

A: Experience shows we can improve corn harvest if our farmers are given the right seeds. When several companies introduced hybrid varieties to replace the traditional open-pollinated variety of corn, harvest jumped by a considerable amount.

Q: But we still are not self-sufficient.

A: We are now testing another hybrid variety that would further increase present harvest. The variety, a transgenic corn type called Yieldgard, is the result of cutting-edge biotechnological research. Our initial wet season trials show that it could increase farm yield by another 10 to 40 percent.

Q: What's special about transgenic Yieldgard corn?

A: It is highly insect-resistant, focused on the Asian corn borer. That means Filipino corn farmers could harvest more while dramatically reducing or even eliminate insecticide use. That would be cheaper for them—more money would go to the farmers' pockets. And it's safer for the environment and the farmers who apply the chemicals.

Q: The optimism ends there?

A: If sufficiently propagated, the use of Yieldgard corn in the country could help the government bring the Philippines back to self-sufficiency status. Indonesia has now 10,000 ha of their cotton farms planted with Bt Cotton variety and is in the process of testing and commercializing Bt Corn.

BORLONGAN

Q: Where are we in this effort?

A: Field testing of this variety is ongoing. There are about 10 trial farms all over the Philippines. Tests are scheduled to be completed by the June of this year.

We hope that the government will further move on to support the commercialization of Yieldgard. If the government moves soon, we will see results in less than a year's time.

Q: What gives you that confidence?

A: The variety is now being used in many countries—the United States, Canada, South Africa, Brazil and Argentina—with very positive results.

ADB sees 4% growth in RP economy

From page B1

that the 19-percent increase in spending for infrastructure planned by the government for 2002 should help stimulate investments and broaden economic activity.

"The uncertain outlook for the ongoing privatization efforts of the government increases the difficulty of achieving deficit targets. Progress in the privatization program will foster higher economic growth and investments, increase revenues in the short run and lessen demand for government expenditure in the long term," the report said.

The ADB report also said the country's trade balance would likely maintain a small surplus this year, but the current account would likely shrink to $2 billion, or 2 percent of GNP, in 2002 and to $1.5 billion, or 1.5 percent of GNP, in 2003.

To improve employment opportunities and reduce unemployment, underemployment and poverty, the bank said domestic and foreign investments must be encouraged through continued reforms and improvement in the investment and operating environment for labor-intensive domestic and foreign businesses.

With a report from AFP

Jan-March vehicle sales still down

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SALES of passenger cars and commercial vehicles in the first quarter this year remained slightly down from last year's level despite an improvement in March brought about by an aggressive marketing campaign by the assemblers.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales fell 0.2 percent to 17,985 units in the first three months of the year from 18,014 units in the same period last year.

Commercial vehicles, which accounted for 68 percent of total sales, slipped 2.4 percent to 12,288 units in the first three months this year from 12,596 units a year ago. Passenger car sales climbed 5.1 percent to 5,697 units in the first quarter this year from 5,418 units last year.

Campi reported that sales in March hit 6,560 units, which was 3.7 percent better than March last year and 10.9 percent higher than the previous month's sales.

Assemblers said the run-up in March sales was triggered by a slew of sales promotion packages that included hefty cash incentive packages and low financing deals.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. spokesperson Ariel de Jesus said sales got a spark from the prevailing low interest rates and the banks' renewed interest in automotive financing.

The automotive loans drove the industry to peak levels in the 1990s until 1998 when the Asian financial crisis left banks with too many bad loans and repossessed cars in their lots. De Jesus said banks were now more willing to provide financing to car buyers apparently due to lack of corporate lending opportunities.

Toyota maintained its pole position in industry sales last month with a 30.18-percent share (5,429 units) as it lorded it over in both market segments with a 35-percent share in passenger cars (2,031 units sold) and 28 percent share in commercial vehicles (3,398 units).

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. was second with a 21-percent market share (3,773 units). Isuzu Philippines Corp. raced to number 3 with a 13-percent share (2,334 units) as it edged out Honda Cars Philippines Inc., which fell to fourth with a 12.6-percent share (2,275 units). Number 5 was the Nissan Motor group which had an 8.06-percent share (1,450 units) during the period.

Solid Group shelves plan to buy Destiny's CATV assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONSUMER electronics manufacturer Solid Group Inc. has suspended its plan to acquire cable infrastructure assets held by the Destiny multimedia group due to delays in the government's approval of the planned investment.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SGI spokesperson Enrique Ligeralde said the company's board had decided to suspend the acquisition of Destiny Inc. (DI), the company which owns the broadband cable infrastructure assets of Destiny Cable Inc (DCI).

The board, he said, revoked a deed of assignment signed on April 16 last year covering the issuance by the Solid Group of 673.84 million shares to DCI in exchange for its entire stake in DI.

Despite this action, the board still intends to pursue the acquisition of DI and maintains its right of first refusal over the company, Ligeralde said.

"The board fully intends to present the new plan to acquire DI under new terms and valuation, that were deemed much more favorable to SGI stockholders, in a special stockholders meeting to be called for this purpose," he added.

DI and DCI, both owned by the family of Joseph and Elena Lim, earlier announced a restructuring scheme that allowed DI to own the broadband cable infrastructure assets of the Destiny group with DCI retaining the franchise to operate cable facilities and the assets directly necessary for the franchise.

Q: How does The Inquirer protect small fry?

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
5 cronies found keeping $100M Swiss banks
Use of children by MILF assailed

A: We keep an eye on the big fish

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

Asia to grow faster this year at 4.8%

DEVELOPING economies in Asia, home to many of the world's most impoverished people, will grow faster this year than last and expand even more quickly next year, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Tuesday.

The rebound from last year will come as the United States, a key export market for much of Asia, continues to build on a recovery that began in the last quarter of 2001, coinciding with an improvement in European and Japanese economies.

But growth rates, which took a battering last year from a slowdown in the global economy and the effect of Sept. 11 terror attacks, remain stubbornly below long-term trends, the bank said in its annual Asian Development Outlook.

China, India and South Korea are likely to lead the growth revival, while some Southeast Asian nations will see their expansion hampered by persistently high levels of bad bank loans.

The main risks for the region are rising oil prices and the strength of the recovery in the United States.

Besides exports, domestic demand in Asia is responding to lower interest rates and higher government spending, while overseas funds are returning to regional equity markets and sovereign dollar bonds, the Manila-based institution said.

"Under these conditions, a gradual recovery in global trade and a moderate improvement in capital flows to (the region) should provide favorable conditions for economic growth," the bank said.

But while growth in developing Asian economies should quicken this year to an average 4.8 percent and improve in 2003 to 5.8 percent, it will not come close to matching the robust 1980s and the first half of the 1990s.

Asia's 12 largest developing economies grew at an average rate of 6.6 percent annually from 1951 to 2000 and at 7.7 percent in the 1980s. In the first half of the 1990s, the rate rose to 8.1 percent.

The bank said whether Asia, especially the export-led economies of East and Southeast Asia, would return to long-term growth rates depended ultimately on domestic reforms.

"Slow progress in structural reform will inhibit domestic demand expansion and productivity growth," the report said.

For some countries, including the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, high levels of non-performing loans could inhibit growth since banks were unwilling to take on fresh risk and there was little or no credit available except for strong corporations.

Growth patterns over the region were diverse, the ADB said.

China is perhaps the best-performing economy in the region, but its expansion slowed to 7.3 percent in 2001 from 8 percent because of a drop in trade, the bank said.

While this should further decelerate to 7 percent this year, accession to the World Trade Organization and growing domestic demand should see growth at 7.4 percent next year.

In South Asia, especially in India and Bangladesh, growth was above the long-term trend in 2001 and would be sustained in the next few years, the bank said.

Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan should recover from recession this year while South Korea's growth should rise to 4.8 percent in 2002 from 3 percent

ASIA/ B7

COUNTRY SHARES

As of March 12, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.65 M/1.7 M*	-
ALTA VISTA A	300,000	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	745,000	-
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	75,000	95,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	265,000	-
CANLUBANG	500,000	-
CAPITOL HILLS	-	125,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	180,000	190,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	620,000**	350,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	200,000	230,000/300,000*/325,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000	270,000/300,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.55M	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/C*	650,000/730,000*	700,000/750,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	120,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND. /C2*	120,000/200,000*	155,000/255,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	600,000*	350,000/625,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000	230,000/350,000*/425,000**
PUERTO AZUL A	-	125,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	225,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	195,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	500,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	90,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	150,000/250,000*/350,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*	1.8M/2.1M*	1,950,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	290,000*	200,000/350,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	400,000/900,000*	425,000/950,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	800,000	850,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	150,000	170,000
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EXTENT UNCLEAR

East Asia leads global recovery—World Bank

SINGAPORE—East Asia, with the notable exception of an ailing Japan, is leading the global economic recovery and will enjoy accelerated growth over the next two years, the World Bank said Tuesday.

But the full extent of the rebound will depend on the implementation of "essential domestic policy reforms," the Washington-based bank said in its half-yearly regional report.

It forecast economic growth in East Asia, excluding Japan, of 4.5 percent this year, up from 3.5 percent in 2001, and said it could grow as high as 6.0 percent in 2003.

"Generally speaking, with the one striking and exceptional case of Japan where news is really not very positive, news in the rest of the region is quite positive but it's tentative," the World Bank's regional chief economist Homi Kharas said.

The report said East Asia was enjoying a quicker and stronger recovery than expected six months ago.

The rapid rebound opened an opportunity "to accelerate essential domestic policy reforms," especially to create a more attractive climate for domestic and foreign investment, bolstering productivity growth and encouraging consumption.

Kharas said that while strong domestic consumer demand meant East Asia "is leading the global recovery . . . a combination of global, regional and domestic factors could shorten the duration of that recovery."

A possible short-lived US economic recovery, continued uncertainties in the Japanese economy and the increasing competitive threat from China are factors that can hurt the region, he said.

Kharas said East Asia should seize the opportunity with the current rebound to implement much needed reforms that would lay the groundwork for a sustained recovery in the long term.

"In a recovery, I think there is an opportunity to really advance with corporate restructuring," Kharas said.

Contrary to expectations, corporate reforms failed to take root after the end of the 1997-1998 Asian crisis because the region managed to stage a strong comeback on the back of a growing US economy, he said.

This time, the external picture has changed markedly with the US economy only just emerging from a mild recession and China taking a big chunk of the foreign direct investment pie away from the region, Kharas said.

"China's efforts to improve corporate governance and undertake a broad range of other structural and institutional refo [illegible] will further enhance its emerging position as a financial as well as a trade center of gravity in this region," he said.

AFP

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PNOC to close coal unit due to financial losses

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. has expressed plans to fold up its coal subsidiary and make it a division of subsidiary PNOC Exploration Corp.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said over the weekend the move was due to PNOC Coal Corp.'s heavy financial losses.

This was despite PNOC's report that PNOC Coal was back in profit after losing money for four consecutive years.

But Perez, who was concurrent chair of PNOC, noted that PNOC Coal posted a net loss of P107 million in 2000—its biggest loss ever.

"The company is back in profit, but it is only about P1 million and bulk of that was actually just accounting gains," Perez said.

He explained that profit was made through recovering excess provisions for the firm's pension reserves and correcting other financial problems.

"Operationally, PNOC Coal is losing money," Perez said.

PNOC Coal has also repeatedly put off commercial operations of an underground mine in Zamboanga del Sur due to problems with the coal reserve.

The mine is a joint venture between the state firm and project operator Taiwan Overseas Mining Corporation.

According to PNOC data, about 3.4 million metric tons of low-grade coal could be recovered from the mine.

Meanwhile, Perez said in February that PNOC planned to set up a new subsidiary for renewable energy to promote clean and local power sources.

"The new subsidiary would concentrate its efforts in projects involving wind and solar power," the energy chief said.

He said the new firm would be set up within the year, but said it would only be a catalyst and a partner in renewable energy projects rather than a major player.

Perez said the government wanted to see more private sector participation especially now that power industry reforms were underway.

GOINGS-ON

New DLSU appointees

FORMER Development Bank of the Philippines chair Francisco del Rosario Jr., Former Agrarian Reform Secretary Philip Ella Juico and investment banker Jose M. Kalaw lead new appointees to the De La Salle University System.

Del Rosario was named executive vice president for the DLSU-Professional Schools Inc. while Juico was appointed dean of the DLSU Graduate School of Business. Kalaw, for his part, takes on the post of vice president for development and alumni affairs.

Del Rosario will oversee the three units of the DLSU-Professional Schools Inc.—Graduate School of Business, Information Technology Center and the College of Computer Studies. He will also serve as senior financial adviser for the DLSU system.

Apart from his stint in the government, Juico has also been a professor of management for 18 years.

Kalaw has held top management positions in various financial institutions and was until recently president of United Pacific Capital Corp., an investment house.

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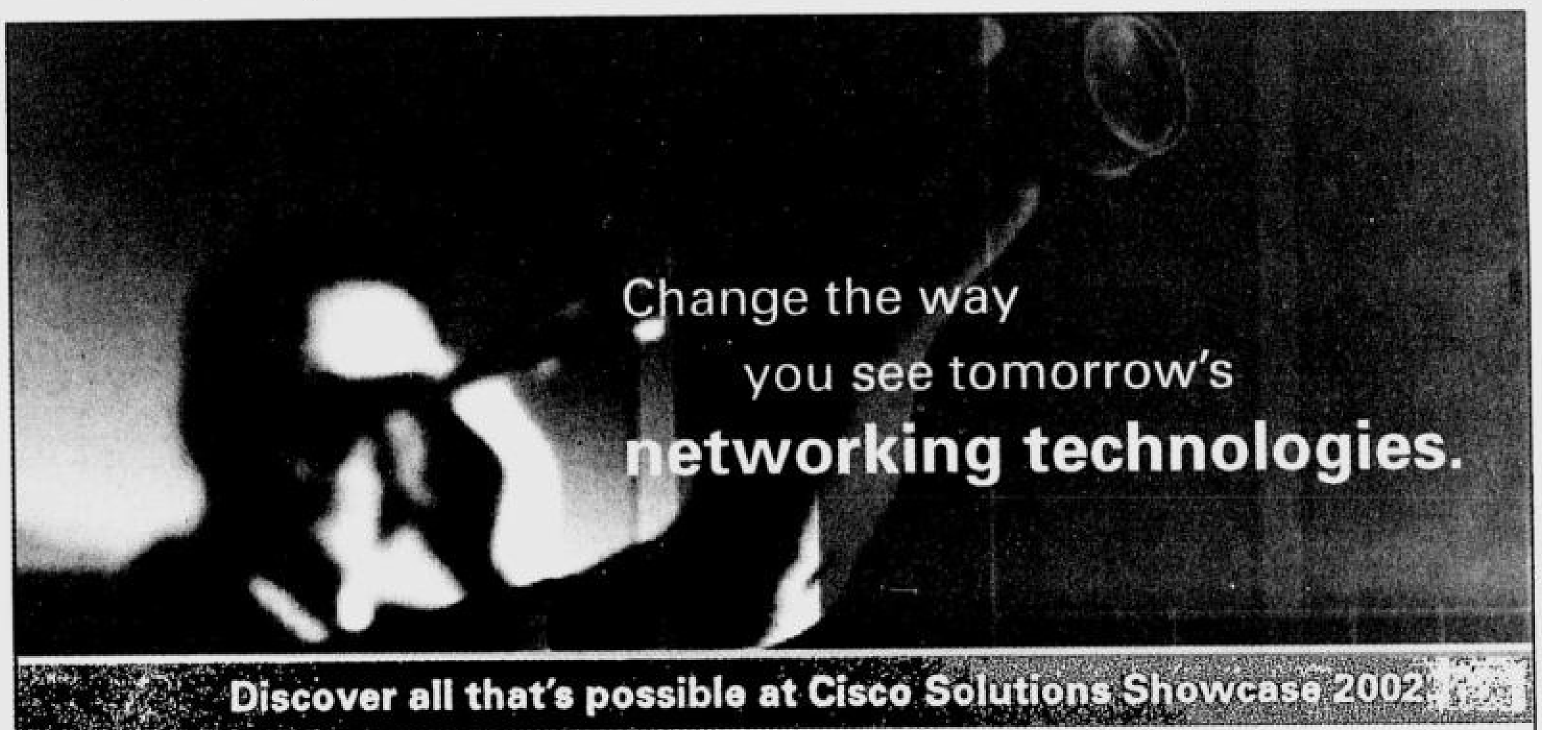
Top fund manager

BANCO de Oro's (BDO) Trust Banking Group was ranked the No. 1 fund manager in the Watson Wyatt's Survey of Investment Performance of retirement funds in the Philippines for the whole year 2001.

The BDO Trust Group also bagged the No. 1 slot as fund manager in the survey for two consecutive quarters ending Sept. 30 and Dec. 31, 2001.

Watson Wyatt has been conducting this survey since 1984. To date, there are 174 retirement funds and 16 fund managers competing in the survey for the best investment performance in retirement fund.

From among the fund managers with at least five participating funds in the survey, BDO has the highest average return on investment at 14.10 percent per year for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 2001, and 15 percent for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 2001.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Corrections to Asia trade distortions sought

ASIA's mushrooming preferential trade arrangements (PTAs) are causing distortions and should be subordinated to the main objective of freeing trade through multilateral mechanisms, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Tuesday.

The Manila-based lender said the region needs to address the shortcomings of these arrangements as it pursues a growing patchwork of agreements, some of them bilateral and others involving a sub-region like Asean or the larger Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, toward economic integration.

For the most part, these arrangements "remain preferential trade agreements with only incremental progress toward becoming free trade areas," the bank said in a statement.

"Furthermore, the exclusion of sectors from PTAs substantially reduces their potential welfare benefits, as it allows sectors in need of reform to continue inefficient production."

Without citing specific countries or products, the ADB said all such Asian PTAs "have relatively complex rules of origin," making it "profitable to alter production patterns simply to fulfill the rules for market access rather than to reduce costs and improve efficiency."

Many of these PTAs "resolve disputes via bilateral negotiations and have no real provisions for sanctioning members that violate the provisions of the PTA."

The PTAs include regional bodies such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Free Trade Area (Afta), as well as bilateral deals including Australia's Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER) with New Zealand.

The ADB described PTAs as "a suboptimal route to free trade" and stressed that "the future economic growth of Asia and the Pacific region is clearly linked to the health of the multilateral trading system."

It urged PTAs to focus their agenda further on discussing regional priorities and preparing for negotiations in larger forums such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to use the PTAs on enhancing commitment to policy reforms among member countries.

"Clearly, there is a need to reform the regulations governing the relations between PTAs and WTO, and to improve the institutional architecture guiding the interaction between PTAs and WTO."

In defense of the PTA concept, ADB said that "in their broader sense, they address concerns beyond narrow issues of trade liberalization between members and serve as vehicles for fostering regional cooperation in other economic and non-economic issues."

They improve communication, reduce the chances of conflict, lead to the pursuit of reforms in areas not addressed, or difficult to address, in broader multilateral arrangements, and provide commitment mechanisms to support domestic policy reform as well as a venue for free trade experimentation.

"On the other hand, there are characteristics in existing PTAs that are detrimental to these goals and should be avoided in future PTAs and reformed in the current ones."

These include "rules of origin that distort comparative advantage, and overlapping jurisdictions and rules of the various PTAs."

It cited the European Union's policy of giving duty- and quota-free access for least developed country exports, which helps the poorest countries but "at the expense of" developing Asian economies. *AFP*

Japan's bad bank loans higher than expected

TOKYO - A government probe has found that losses related to bad loans at Japan's 13 major banks are likely higher than previously thought, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Financial Supervisory Agency discovered the figure to be 1.9 trillion yen ($15.2 billion) more than the 6.5 trillion ($49.2 billion) estimated in September, the Nihon Keizai said.

The leading economic daily cited results of FSA inspections, which it said were to be made public on Friday. Agency officials were not immediately available to comment on the report.

Despite the additional losses, the agency thinks the major banks will be able to secure capital ratios in the 10 percent range, above the 8 percent threshold required for them to engage in international operations, the report said.

Therefore, the agency sees no need to inject public funds into the major banks, it said.

The Japanese government estimates there are 43 trillion yen ($323 billion) in bad loans throughout Japan's banking system.

Private analysts say the figure could be much higher. *AP*

China unlikely to change its yuan policy soon—ADB

TOKYO—China is unlikely to abandon its fixed exchange rate policy any time soon, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Tuesday.

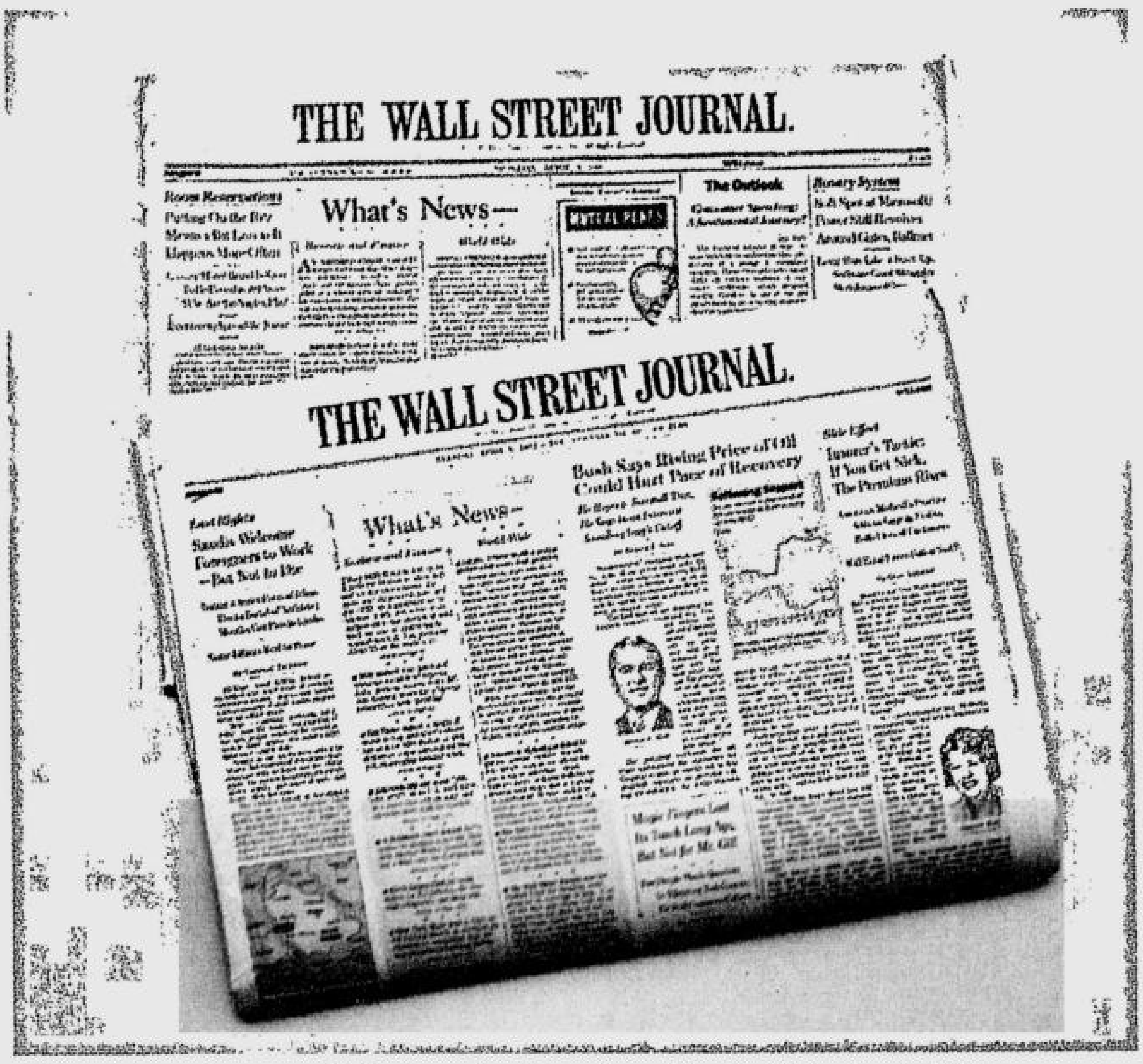
Malcolm Dowling, an ADB consultant and professor at Melbourne University, said the Manila based bank saw no very strong reasons why Beijing should change its policy of virtually pegging the yuan at around 8.28 per dollar.

"Whether it's overvalued or undervalued is very difficult to ascertain. China has been successful and I think they're probably going to stay with this policy at least for the next couple of years," Dowling told Reuters Television.

Dowling was in Tokyo to brief reporters on the release of the ADB's Asian Development Outlook 2002, which projects a return to a more balanced and sustainable rate of growth in the region after five years of volatility.

The main risks to the outlook included question marks on the strength of the US recovery, a possible drop in the dollar because of the yawning US current account deficit and a surge in oil prices due to unrest in the Middle East, Dowling said.

International oil prices jumped more than $1 a barrel on Monday to more than $27 after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein announced an immediate suspension of oil exports for a month or until Israel withdrew unconditionally from Palestinian-controlled areas of the West Bank. *Reuters*



THE WALL Street Journal unveiled its first major design change since World War II on April 9. Top paper is the former design and lower one is the new design. AP

Embattled Arthur Andersen to lay off 7,000 employees

CHICAGO—Taking a "painful" but inevitable step after suffering critical damage from its role in the Enron scandal, Arthur Andersen LLP announced plans Monday to lay off 7,000 employees as the 89-year-old accounting giant fights for its survival.

The dismissals, which will pare its US work force of 26,000 by more than a quarter, come with the firm's reputation in tatters, its overseas network fast disintegrating and more US companies replacing it daily as their auditor.

Whether they help the 89-year-old firm stay in existence remains to be seen. Industry observers say Andersen still urgently needs to reach a settlement with the Justice Department to remove the criminal charge that has driven off scores of clients.

"This is a recognition of reality by Andersen," said Ashish Nanda, an associate professor at Harvard Business School. "Instead of a large global firm with multinational clients and multiple services, it's going to be a significantly smaller, primarily North American audit firm—if it survives."

Andersen said the layoffs would take place over the next several months, with the audit practice and administrative services bearing the brunt. Company headquarters and other large US offices, including Atlanta, Los Angeles and New York, will be hardest-hit.

"To take this step in our history is obviously a very painful and difficult step, but a necessary step given the market realities we're dealing with today," said Grover Wray, Andersen's US managing partner for people.

Larry Gorrell, managing partner of Andersen's US operations, said other, unspecified cost-cutting measures also are being taken.

The cuts will be felt most sharply in Chicago, where 5,300 people work at headquarters and another 1,200 at Andersen's training center in nearby St. Charles, Ill.

A mixture of shock and resignation characterized the mood at headquarters, where many if not most employees still were unsure of their fate Monday afternoon.

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The nearly 150-year-old company, long a rugged symbol of the American West, also said it would close its last plant in San Francisco—ending nearly 100 years of jeans-making in the fabled firm's hometown.

The cuts from the company's total work force of approximately 16,600 include about 3,300 positions from the six plant closures and another 300 from a reduction in jobs at a remaining factory.

"This is a painful but necessary business decision," Chief Executive Officer Philip Marineau said in a statement. "There is no question that we must move away from owned-and-operated plants in the United States to remain competitive in our industry."

Contracting to outside cheaper manufacturers will allow the company to have a more flexible cost structure, protect its profit margins and invest more in product development, marketing and retailing, he added. *Reuters*

Asia . . .

From page B5

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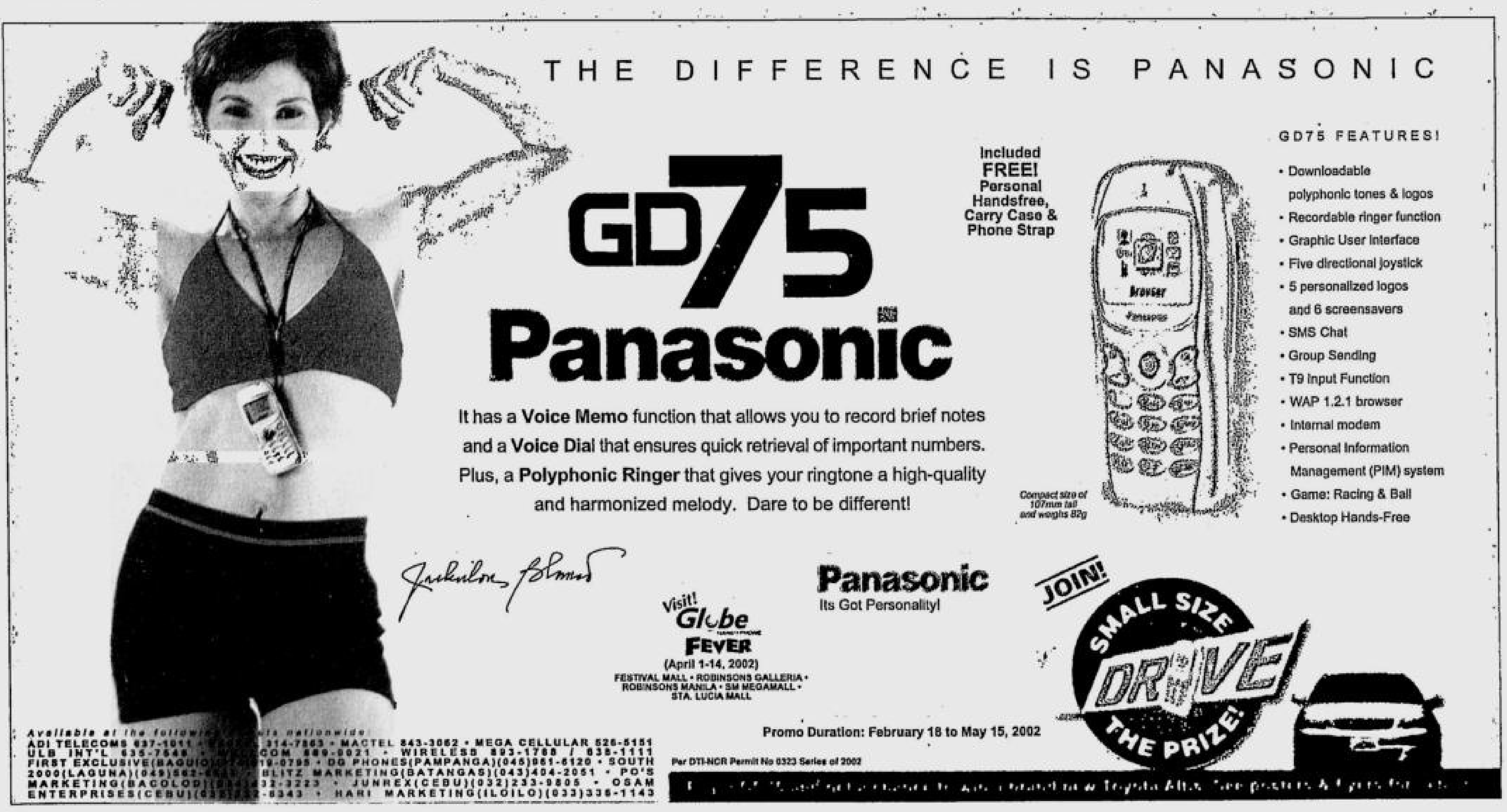
But in all these countries, and elsewhere in Southeast Asia, growth will be below long-term trends because of the relatively slow recovery of external demand, while domestic demand will not be able to fully take up the slack.

The report covers almost all of the Asia-Pacific region except Japan, Australia and New Zealand. North Korea and Iran do not feature, but the Central Asian Republics are included.

The bank, established in 1966, is a multilateral development finance institution dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific. *Reuters*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Corrections to Asia trade distortions sought

ASIA's mushrooming preferential trade arrangements (PTAs) are causing distortions and should be subordinated to the main objective of freeing trade through multilateral mechanisms, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Tuesday.

The Manila-based lender said the region needs to address the shortcomings of these arrangements as it pursues a growing patchwork of agreements, some of them bilateral and others involving a sub-region like Asean or the larger Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, toward economic integration.

For the most part, these arrangements "remain preferential trade agreements with only incremental progress toward becoming free trade areas," the bank said in a statement.

"Furthermore, the exclusion of sectors from PTAs substantially reduces their potential welfare benefits, as it allows sectors in need of reform to continue inefficient production."

Without citing specific countries or products, the ADB said all such Asian PTAs "have relatively complex rules of origin," making it "profitable to alter production patterns simply to fulfill the rules for market access rather than to reduce costs and improve efficiency."

Many of these PTAs "resolve disputes via bilateral negotiations and have no real provisions for sanctioning members that violate the provisions of the PTA."

The PTAs include regional bodies such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Free Trade Area (Afta), as well as bilateral deals including Australia's Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER) with New Zealand.

The ADB described PTAs as "a suboptimal route to free trade" and stressed that "the future economic growth of Asia and the Pacific region is clearly linked to the health of the multilateral trading system."

It urged PTAs to focus their agenda further on discussing regional priorities and preparing for negotiations in larger forums such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to use the PTAs on enhancing commitment to policy reforms among member countries.

"Clearly, there is a need to reform the regulations governing the relations between PTAs and WTO, and to improve the institutional architecture guiding the interaction between PTAs and WTO."

In defense of the PTA concept, ADB said that "in their broader sense, they address concerns beyond narrow issues of trade liberalization between members and serve as vehicles for fostering regional cooperation in other economic and non-economic issues."

They improve communication, reduce the chances of conflict, lead to the pursuit of reforms in areas not addressed, or difficult to address, in broader multilateral arrangements, and provide commitment mechanisms to support domestic policy reform as well as a venue for free trade experimentation.

"On the other hand, there are characteristics in existing PTAs that are detrimental to these goals and should be avoided in future PTAs and reformed in the current ones."

These include "rules of origin that distort comparative advantage, and overlapping jurisdictions and rules of the various PTAs."

It cited the European Union's policy of giving duty- and quota-free access for least developed country exports, which helps the poorest countries but "at the expense of" developing Asian economies. *AFP*

Japan's bad bank loans higher than expected

TOKYO - A government probe has found that losses related to bad loans at Japan's 13 major banks are likely higher than previously thought, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Financial Supervisory Agency discovered the figure to be 1.9 trillion yen ($15.2 billion) more than the 6.5 trillion ($49.2 billion) estimated in September, the Nihon Keizai said.

The leading economic daily cited results of FSA inspections, which it said were to be made public on Friday. Agency officials were not immediately available to comment on the report.

Despite the additional losses, the agency thinks the major banks will be able to secure capital ratios in the 10 percent range, above the 8 percent threshold required for them to engage in international operations, the report said.

Therefore, the agency sees no need to inject public funds into the major banks, it said.

The Japanese government estimates there are 43 trillion yen ($323 billion) in bad loans throughout Japan's banking system.

Private analysts say the figure could be much higher. *AP*

China unlikely to change its yuan policy soon—ADB

TOKYO—China is unlikely to abandon its fixed exchange rate policy any time soon, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Tuesday.

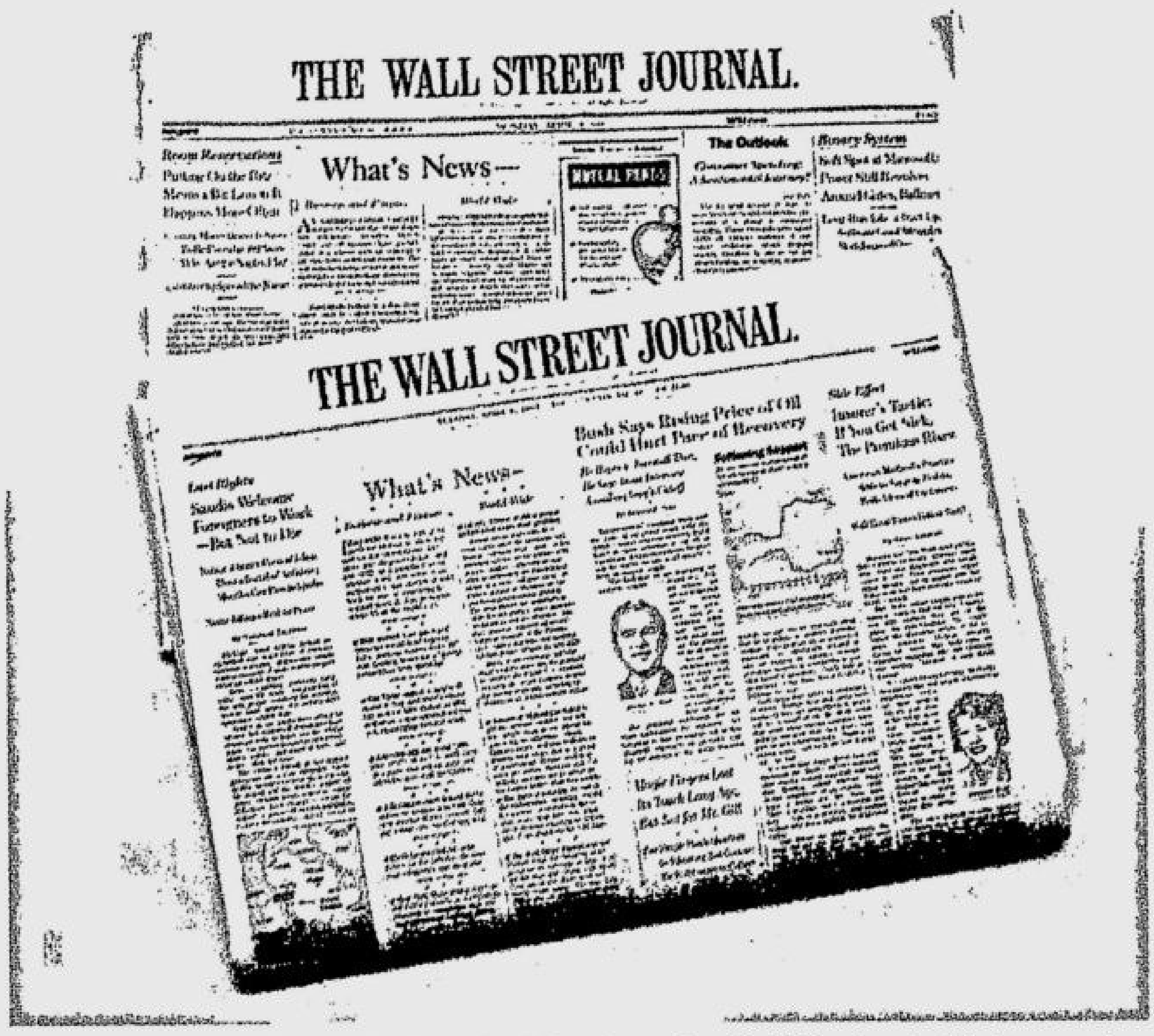
Malcolm Dowling, an ADB consultant and professor at Melbourne University, said the Manila based bank saw no very strong reasons why Beijing should change its policy of virtually pegging the yuan at around 8.28 per dollar.

"Whether it's overvalued or undervalued is very difficult to ascertain. China has been successful and I think they're probably going to stay with this policy at least for the next couple of years," Dowling told Reuters Television.

Dowling was in Tokyo to brief reporters on the release of the ADB's Asian Development Outlook 2002, which projects a return to a more balanced and sustainable rate of growth in the region after five years of volatility.

The main risks to the outlook included question marks on the strength of the US recovery, a possible drop in the dollar because of the yawning US current account deficit and a surge in oil prices due to unrest in the Middle East, Dowling said.

International oil prices jumped more than $1 a barrel on Monday to more than $27 after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein announced an immediate suspension of oil exports for a month or until Israel withdrew unconditionally from Palestinian-controlled areas of the West Bank. *Reuters*



THE WALL Street Journal unveiled its first major design change since World War II on April 9. Top paper is the former design and lower one is the new design. AP

Embattled Arthur Andersen to lay off 7,000 employees

CHICAGO—Taking a "painful" but inevitable step after suffering critical damage from its role in the Enron scandal, Arthur Andersen LLP announced plans Monday to lay off 7,000 employees as the 89-year-old accounting giant fights for its survival.

The dismissals, which will pare its US work force of 26,000 by more than a quarter, come with the firm's reputation in tatters, its overseas network fast disintegrating and more US companies replacing it daily as their auditor.

Whether they help the 89-year-old firm stay in existence remains to be seen. Industry observers say Andersen still urgently needs to reach a settlement with the Justice Department to remove the criminal charge that has driven off scores of clients.

"This is a recognition of reality by Andersen," said Ashish Nanda, an associate professor at Harvard Business School. "Instead of a large global firm with multinational clients and multiple services, it's going to be a significantly smaller, primarily North American audit firm—if it survives."

Andersen said the layoffs would take place over the next several months, with the audit practice and administrative services bearing the brunt. Company headquarters and other large US offices, including Atlanta, Los Angeles and New York, will be hardest-hit.

"To take this step in our history is obviously a very painful and difficult step, but a necessary step given the market realities we're dealing with today," said Grover Wray, Andersen's US managing partner for people.

Larry Gorrell, managing partner of Andersen's US operations, said other, unspecified cost-cutting measures also are being taken.

The cuts will be felt most sharply in Chicago, where 5,300 people work at headquarters and another 1,200 at Andersen's training center in nearby St. Charles, Ill.

A mixture of shock and resignation characterized the mood at headquarters, where many if not most employees still were unsure of their fate Monday afternoon.

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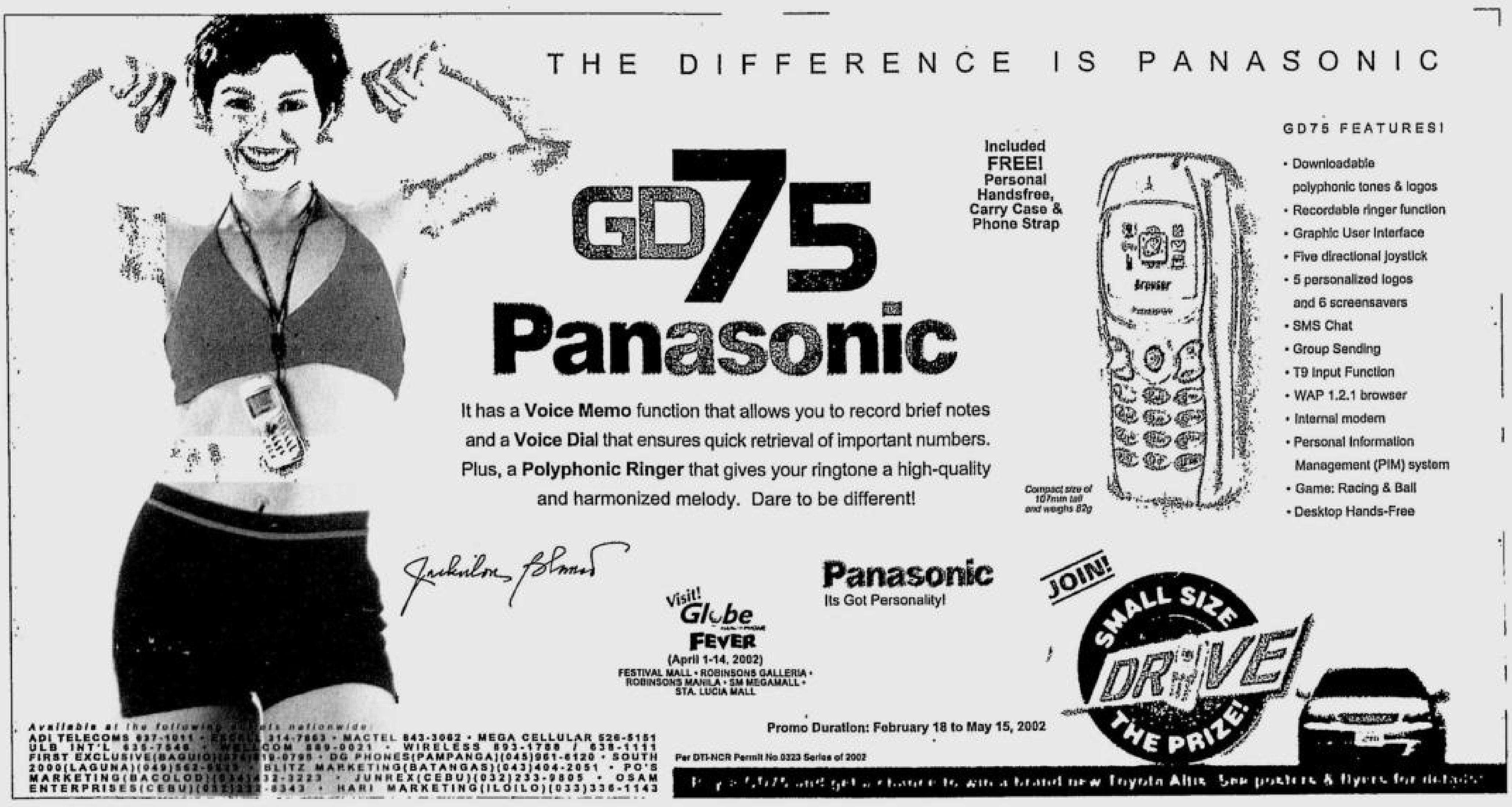
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China WTO entry a threat to Malaysia electronic industry

KUALA LUMPUR—China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) is a threat to the Malaysian economy, especially its electronics industry, a senior minister and industrialists said Tuesday.

Human resources minister Fong Chan Onn said China's status as an emerging economic power has become a great concern to many economies.

The shift of East Asia's manufacturing base to China accelerates with each passing month, he said.

"China is a threat. Malaysia must learn to cope with this emerging trend and rectify weaknesses to remain competitive in critical industries such as electronics," he told reporters at a forum on the electronics industry.

China joined the WTO in December last year.

Fong said the government had allocated 2.6 billion ringgit ($684 million) to support industrial development to enhance the competitiveness of the industries with focus on skills upgrading, technology development and improving infrastructure.

The electrical and electronic industry is a major contributor to Malaysian exports, consisting about 60 percent of total manufactured earnings.

C.B. Teh, president of the Malaysian American Electronics Industry, said China was a major challenge to Malaysia.

"The global electronics industry must learn to survive alongside China instead of competing with it," he said.

But Teh described a rosy outlook of the Malaysian electronics industry for 2002 amid recovery in the world economy.

The electronics industry is expected to grow 5-10 percent this year, compared to a contraction of 30 percent in 2001, Teh said. *AFP*

Asia to take a hit if oil prices stay above $25/barrel–ADB

ASIAN economies would suffer if crude oil prices stayed above $25 a barrel for long, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) warned Tuesday.

The bank said gross domestic product (GDP) growth of developing Asian economies should pick up to 4.8 percent this year and 5.8 percent next year compared to 3.7 percent in 2001 as exports recover, but that "disruptive global events" including an oil price spike would alter the numbers.

Global oil prices surged Monday after Iraq suspended oil exports for 30 days to pressure Israel into withdrawing from Palestinian territories.

While Asia had marginal exports to the Middle East, "we are closely monitoring the political developments in the Middle East region," ADB principal economist Kim Yun-Hwan told a news conference.

Philippine-based ADB said its GDP growth forecasts assumed that crude oil prices would average $25 a barrel or below, compared to $19.80 a barrel last year.

Beyond that it would "start to affect" the ADB projections, Thomas Crouch, ADB country director for the Philippines, told the news conference.

Investment banks models indicate that a $2 increase in crude oil prices would shave 0.1 percentage-point off the region's economic output, he said.

However, Kim said the prevailing prices were still within range of the ADB projections.

"We used $22 on the downside and a high side of $28," he said.

The price of light sweet crude for May delivery climbed 33 cents to close at $26.54 a barrel in New York.

In London, benchmark Brent North Sea crude for May delivery spiked as high as $27.43 a barrel. Prices later stabilized around $27 a barrel, up from $25.99 on Friday evening.

Oil prices had already been bubbling higher as Israel pressed ahead with its siege of the West Bank despite calls from US President George W. Bush for an immediate withdrawal. *AFP*

IBM warns of sharp downturn in revenues

NEW YORK—International Business Machines Corp. on Monday warned of a huge first quarter shortfall, which it blamed on businesses cutting technology purchases, spurring a sell-off in its shares.

Despite persistent rumors during recent quarters that Armonk, New York-based IBM would warn—with the latest coming on Friday—the news still caught the market by surprise, and initially sent stocks down around the globe.

Corporate technology spending has been dismal for the past year due to the economic downturn—hampering earnings and revenue at most technology companies.

The news from No. 1 computer maker IBM made it clear that companies haven't started spending again, investors said.

"IBM is not immune to some of the same issues that are affecting everyone else," said Marty Shagrin, an analyst at Cleveland, Ohio-based Victory Capital Management.

But, Shagrin and some other analysts also said increased investor concerns about the aggressive accounting may have limited IBM's first-quarter earnings. In response to that scrutiny, IBM last month said it would provide more information on some items it typically includes in revenue and profit.

"I think in periods in the past, if IBM has had a revenue shortfall, they've been able to make up for it in other areas," he said. "But with the increased disclosure and increased scrutiny, it doesn't seem like they had that possibility this time."

IBM, which declined to comment beyond its written statement, said customers deferred capital spending due to the business environment, hitting IBM revenues across the board. In particular, the division which makes components for other companies to use in computers and other products was hurt.

It was the first time in more than a decade that IBM issued an earnings warning outside of a regularly scheduled event. *AP*

Trouble continues for Japan's Mizuho group

TOKYO—The world's biggest financial group Mizuho Holdings Inc. struggled to resolve a string of erroneous transactions on customer accounts Tuesday as its president prepared for a grilling in parliament.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi lashed out at the group.

Mizuho "has been slacking off after all," the premier told reporters at his official residence. "I want them to get a grip of themselves from inside."

Mizuho has been dogged by broken automatic teller machines (ATMs), delays in account transfers and glitches with customer withdrawals for over a week since starting a new life on April 1 by realigning three of its group banks into two.

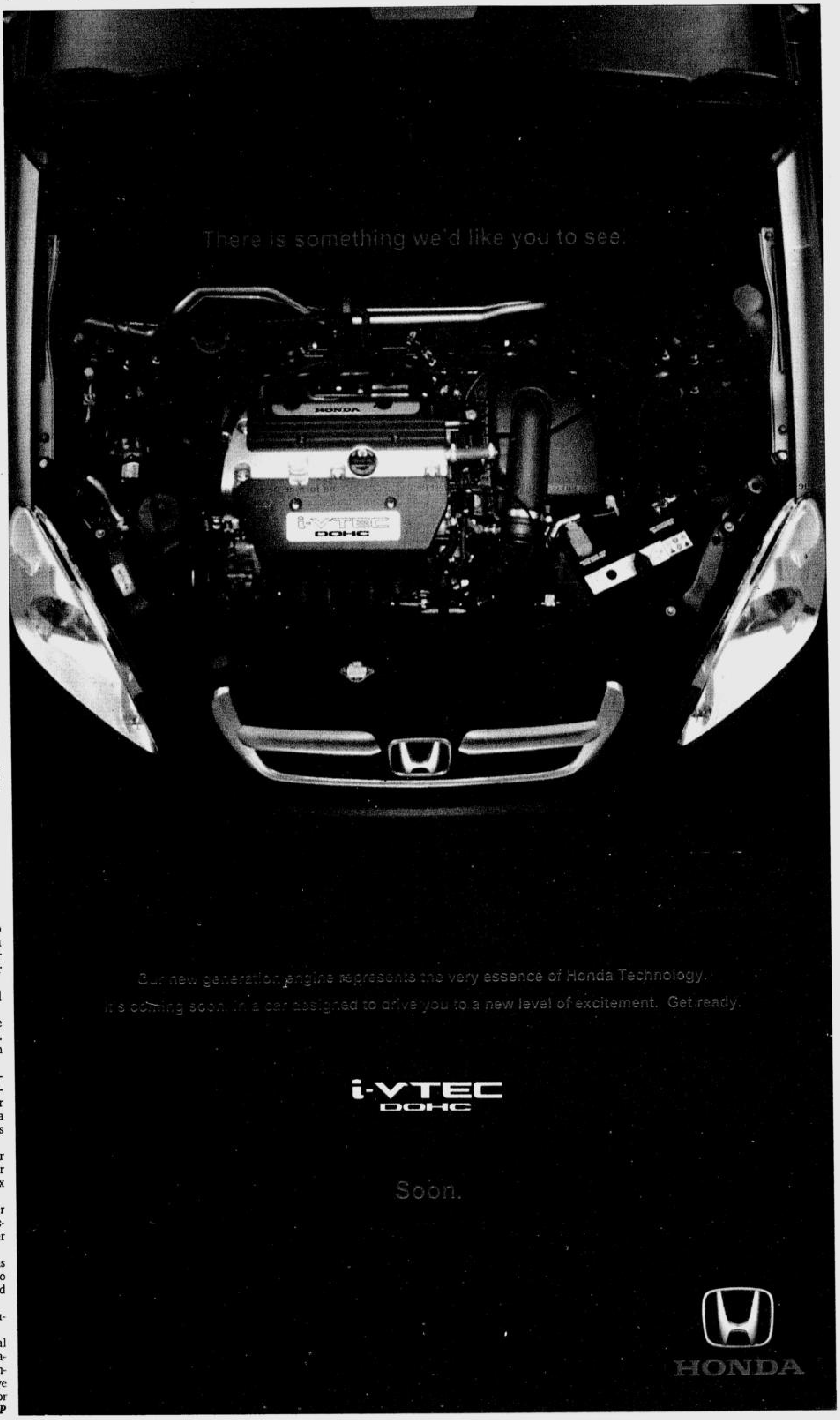
On Monday, the bank debited customer accounts twice for 30,000 withdrawals for utility and other bills, while it struggled to fix earlier problems.

The mistake occurred just four days after Mizuho discovered some 30,000 money transfers had been debited twice from customer accounts.

"We are now checking if all (new erroneous withdrawals) have been corrected," a Mizuho Holdings spokesperson said, adding it had solved most cases.

The system trouble caught financial authorities by surprise.

"I had been thinking it (operational glitches) would be a problem hardly in Japan," Hakuo Yanagisawa, minister for financial affairs, told a news conference. "We have to tackle it more seriously with inspections or other measures." *AFP*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(In compliance with RA 7041)

(1) RECORDS OFFICER V (Item No. 267*) SG 24; Masteral Degree; 4 yrs. in position/s involving management & supervision; 24 hrs. of training in management & supervision; Eligibility Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility (Records Division)

(2) MESSENGER (Item Nos. 273*; 9*) SG 02; Elementary School Graduate; Experience none required; Training none required; (MC 11, s.96 - Cat. III) (Records Division)

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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY PRIVATIZATION OF PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), has authorized the privatization of PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC), a company engaged in the exploration, development, and utilization of energy resources.

PNOC is now inviting prospective Financial Advisors to advise, guide and assist in the design, planning, preparation and implementation of the program for the privatization of PNOC-EC.

Prospective financial advisors who meet all of the following criteria may secure application forms for pre-qualification:

- has extensive global and Asian experience as financial advisor to governments on privatizations;
- has knowledge and experience in Asian and Philippine petroleum exploration and production sector;
- has extensive experience in lead-managing public equity offerings and arranging private equity sales, both globally and in Asia;
- if a foreign firm, with office in the Philippines or within Asia and willing to deploy a dedicated team of petroleum/energy experts in the country;
- No conflict of interest related to being the privatization adviser of PSALM

Qualified parties may secure pre-qualification forms starting on **April 5, 2002** during regular office hours from PNOC-EC Privatization Committee Secretariat at the 1st Floor, Building 6 Energy Center Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Deadline for submission of accomplished forms to the same office will be on **April 22, 2002** at 12:00 noon.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Celia R. Tagaro (PNOC-EC Privatization Committee Secretariat) at No. 8401442 and fax no. 8401441.

(Sgd.) **DIR. NELSON B. BAYOT, SR.**
Chairman, PNOC-EC
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RICO H. GUARIN has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc No. 441, Page No. 08, Book No. 51, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Patria G. Abella
(PDI- April 3, 10, &17 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given regarding the loss of Manila Doctors-Manila Medical Services Stock Certificate#'s 582, 759, 1971 issued to Herminia B. Panlilio, M.D. & Stock Certificate #'s 1186, 1241, 1328, 1426 & 1972 issued to Manuel V. Panlilio, M.D. &r Herminia B. Panlilio, M.D. were lost.
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In Loving Memory
of our Dearly Beloved

DR. JUAN (Jhonny) O. TAN

Of GASAN, MARINDUQUE/DAMAR, QUEZON CITY
Born : Aug. 28, 1932
Died : April 8, 2002

Who Peacefully joined our Creator
And now rest in His goodness & grace.

We, his wife **NELLY L. TAN**; his brothers, sisters and in-laws **JOSE & HELEN TAN, PETE & ANITA TAN, FRANCISCO & SIOK CHENG TAN, SIOK LU & JESUS LU, EMMA & JOSE ANG, ROSIE & JULIAN SERRANO**; his children **JEFFREY & IRENE TAN, JANET & CHESTER CHUA**; his grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends requested the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Chapel 1, Araneta, Quezon City.

Interment will be announce later.

Our Dearly Beloved

ROMULO G. IGNACIO

(Retired Public School Teacher)
of Laoag City

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 7, 2002 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Caridad** (†); children **Romj & Helen, Manuel, Catherine, Janet & Leo Remo, Rose & Ed Batac, Imee & Danny Palma, Carlo & Lisa, Alger & Rose**; brothers **Luis** (†), **Bonifacio** (†); sisters **Pacita Gabriel, Rosita Juan, Olivia Medina**; grandchildren **Joseph, Jenina, James, Elaine, Jessa, Bianca, Ian, Daboy, Revic, Dee, Paolo, Princess, John & Kaye**; relatives and friends requests prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence 19 C A Samonte Street, Laoag City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 13 April 2002 at 7:30 AM.

Our Family
chain is broken,
but as God calls
us one by one,
our chain will
link again.
We love you and
miss you every
single day of our
lives.
——Teresa

John Brendan "Sean" Meaney of Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd., Manila died last April 12, 2001 in his home town Limerick, Ireland
His wife Teresa, children Clair, Jonathan and Sean Patrick; brothers and sisters Pat, Tom, Noel, Tony, Mary and Lillian, in-laws nephews and nieces inviting friends and relatives to a mass which would be offered on his 1st death Anniversary Friday 10:00 o'clock am 12th of April at the Manila Yacht Club, Roxas Blvd., Manila, Philippines and at the St. Munchins Parish, Limerick Ireland.

MARCIE AGBANAWAG FLOJO

Passed away on April 7, 2002 at the age of 70.

Her husband **Melchor**; children & in-laws, **Noel & Tessa** and **Ma. Carmela**; grandchildren **Noeresse, Joseph & Pauline** remember her with love & request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 13, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino after the 8:00 A.M. Holy Mass.

LOURDES JARDIN DEANG

Died peacefully on April 6, 2002 at the age of 83

Her bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at 653 San Francisco St., Poblacion, Las Piñas City.

Interment will be on April 11, 2002, Thursday, at 2:00 p.m. at the Catholic Cemetery, Las Piñas City.

We know that God raised
the Lord Jesus from death.
He will raise us to life with
Jesus. He will present us,
along with you, to God.

2 Corinthians 4:14

In Loving Memory
On the 6th Death Anniversary of

ASUNCION M. GEMPERLE

August 7, 1931 - April 11, 1996

We, her family, together with her brothers, sisters, and relatives, request the pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, April 11, 2002, at the following churches:

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO CHURCH McKinley Rd., Forbes Park Makati City	6:15 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 12:15 noon 6:00 p.m.
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH Magallanes Village Makati City	6:15 a.m. 7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
ST. JOHN DON BOSCO PARISH Pasay Road, Makati City	6:30 A.M. 7:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL Doña Juana, New Manila Quezon City	6:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
CHRIST THE KING PARISH Greenmeadows Ave. Quezon City	6:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE Greenhills East, San Juan Metro Manila	6:15 a.m. 7:15 a.m. 6:15 p.m.
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH Greenhills West, San Juan Metro Manila	6:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
SANCTA MARIA STELLA ORIENTIS CHAPEL University of Asia & Pacific Pearl Drive, Pasig, MM	7:45 a.m. 12:05 noon

---

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved

EMETERIO "EMENG" E. TANLAPCO

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 8, 2002 at the age of 82.

His loving wife **Maxima Cruz**; children **Gene** and **Wilma**, **Efren** and **Sylvia**, **Elis** and **Nena**, **Eloisa** and **Bert**; grandchildren and great grandchild request the pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

His remains lie in state at their residence at No. 6 G. Santos St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City.

Interment will be on April 11, 2002 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Rosa De Lima Church, Bagong Ilog, Pasig City.

Our Sincerest Gratitude and Appreciation
To all our relatives, friends, and pious readers

- ✣ For the Holy Masses and Prayers offered
- ✣ For the messages of sympathy and condolence
- ✣ For the flowers and donations to express compassion
- ✣ For the visit, support and being with us in our moment of grief & sorrow
- ✣ For joining us in our nightly vigil
- ✣ For the Commemorative Services of the Knights of Columbus
- ✣ For attending the Requiem Masses and funeral rites

With grateful hearts from The Family of the late

SIR KNIGHT EDUARDO K. TAN, SR.

who died peacefully in the Grace of God
on March 26, 2002 at Dagupan City

JESUS "BOYA" O. CORDERO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 6, 2002 at the age of 53.

His bereaved wife **Alma**; his daughters **Abbie**, **Lei**, **Kay**, **Pheigh** and **Gabo**; granddaughter **Louise Renee**; his mother **Librada**; brothers and sisters; nephews, nieces and other relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence in Baguio City and will be transferred to their ancestral house at Binalonan, Pangasinan on April 11, 2002.

Interment will be held at Binalonan Public Cemetery on April 14, 2002 after the 10:45 AM Mass at Sto. Niño Parish Church.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 60
Baguio City

BERNARDO AGANA,
Plaintiff,
- versus -
ERWIN MENDOZA, GEORGE ESTILLORE and OSCAR M. HAMADA (in his official capacity as the Regional Executive Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources),
Defendants.
x---------------------------------------x

CIVIL CASE NO. 4323-R
For
RECOVERY OF OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION, CERTIORARI, PROHIBITION AND DAMAGES

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, on March 12, 1999, plaintiff through counsel filed a verified complaint, the same was amended on April 17, 2001, the Amended Complaint is quoted in toto, as follows:

"PLAINTIFF, through undersigned counsel and unto this Honorable Court, most respectfully states that:

1. Plaintiff is a Filipino, of legal age, married and a resident of Navy Base, Baguio City. WHEREAS, defendant ERWIN MENDOZA is a naturalized American Citizen, of legal age, married and with address at No. 57 Samar Avenue, Metro Manila, where he may be served with Summons and other court processes. The other defendant, GEORGE ESTILLORE, who is the caretaker of Erwin Mendoza, is a Filipino, of legal age, married and a resident of Navy Base, Baguio City, where he may be served with summons and other court processes;

2. Public defendant, HON. OSCAR M. HAMADA is the Regional Executive Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Cordillera Administrative Region, Baguio City. He is a Filipino, of legal age, married and may be served with summons and other court processes at the Office of the Regional Executive Director, DENR, Diego Silang Street, Baguio City. Honorable Oscar M. Hamada is being sued herein in his official capacity as the Regional Director;

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

3. Sometimes in the early part of 1969, an area of more or less 4 hectares of the land situated at Residence Section "D", Polo Field, Baguio City, was allocated and distributed by the Bureau of Lands to the members of the Baguio Homeseekers Residence Association. Among the members to whom a portion of the said lot was designated is the herein plaintiff;

4. The portion of the lot assigned to the herein Plaintiff was designated as Lot No. 24. Plaintiff, since then, entered into the actual occupation and possession of the said property, introducing improvements thereon;

5. Upon having received his allocated parcel of land, plaintiff, on November 11, 1969, filed an application for a Miscellaneous Sales Patent over his area. Attached herewith, marked as ANNEX "A" and made part hereof is a Plaintiff's MSA over the area allocated to him;

6. In addition to filing his MSA, the Plaintiff likewise declared the land for taxation purposes under his name;

7. Since plaintiff was in the army and was assigned in Mindanao, he was not able to follow up his application. Nevertheless, he never abandoned his interest in his lot and, whenever he had the opportunity, he would take the necessary steps to perfect his ownership over the same;

8. On September 1992, during his infrequent follow up of his papers in Luzon, plaintiff found out that the lot which was allocated to him was being claimed by a certain person by the name of ERWIN MENDOZA. Plaintiff found this out merely from the records of the Bureau of Lands;

9. On April 1993, Plaintiff acquired copies of his papers, pertinent to his lot application at Polo Field, Baguio City from the DENR Office No. 1-2, Bureau of Lands, Baguio City, and from thence, he found out for the first time that an order has been issued by the Officer-In-Charge of the said office, to the effect that Plaintiff's MSA was rejected and the application of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA was given due course for the reason that Plaintiff allegedly relinquished and waived his rights over the said parcel of land in favor of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA, through an affidavit of Assignment of Rights and Improvements dated February 9, 1976. Attached herewith, marked as ANNEX "B" and "C", respectively, are copies of the Order and the fictitious Affidavit;

10. Needless to say, the Affidavit allegedly executed by the herein Plaintiff waiving his rights in favor of ERWIN MENDOZA is a falsity. The signature of Plaintiff as appearing thereon is an absolute forgery. Coupled with this, at the time of the execution of the said Affidavit, Plaintiff was then in Mindanao discharging his tour of duty. It is then highly improbably, if not outright impossible for Plaintiff to have executed the said affidavit;

11. Furthermore, Plaintiff has never, not even once in his lifetime ever met a person by the name ERWIN MENDOZA;

12. And yet, despite all the improbabilities and anomalies existent in the MSA of ERWIN MENDOZA and the fictitious Affidavit of Waiver, Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA successfully deprived Plaintiff of his possession and ownership over the land which was awarded to him. In this regard, ERWIN MENDOZA, through his co-defendant and caretaker, has now occupied the premises in dispute;

13. And so, due to the anomalies existent in the rejection of Plaintiff's MSA and the acceptance of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA's MSA Plaintiff, on January 18, 1994, plaintiff filed and Administrative Protest before the DENR, questioning the application of Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA. Attached herewith, marked as ANNEX "D" and made part hereof is a copy of Plaintiff's Administrative Protest;

14. The Administrative Complaint filed by the Plaintiff remained unacted upon for a period of five (5) years due to absence of ERWIN MENDOZA. If ever ERWIN MENDOZA appeared, it was always through her mother. Serious doubts even exist if there is really a person by the name of ERWIN MENDOZA;

15. At any rate, during the scheduled hearing for the administrative case, the only issue was whether the signature as appearing in the Affidavit was falsified. It might prove illuminating to stress that during the hearings Plaintiff was more than willing to make the necessary comparison of his signature with the signature appearing in the Affidavit. Yet, the necessary comparison could not be had because of the refusal of ERWIN MENDOZA to surrender the original of the Affidavit for examination;

16. Inspite of the refusal of ERWIN MENDOZA to surrender the original for proper examination of the signature, the public Defendant Hamada, proceed to resolve the case with grave abuse of discretion, amounting to lack of jurisdiction.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

17. During the hearings of the Administrative Protest filed by Plaintiff against ERWIN MENDOZA, there was never an instance that public defendant OSCAR M. HAMADA, ever presided over the hearing. Not having presided over the hearings, it is then grave abuse of discretion on his part to have rendered an order without even having had the chance to consider the evidences, observe the demeanor of the witnesses and appreciate the case;

18. Perforce to say then, not having had any hand in the hearing of the administrative case, it is totally contrary to due process and fair play that he would decide the same. But he did. In fact, he rendered a hasty decision in favor of ERWIN MENDOZA;

19. But even granting without admitting that HON. OSCAR M. HAMADA was well within his rights to decide the case, his decision is contrary to precepts of evidence. As stated earlier, the original of the questioned Affidavit is in the possession of ERWIN MENDOZA. Even during the hearings, ERWIN MENDOZA, through her mother, always showed the original. When it was requested that the same be submitted for verification by the NBI, the mother of ERWIN MENDOZA refused. Despite this, the public defendant OSCAR M. HAMADA decreed that "despite the long period of time afforded him, he failed." This condition smacks the elements of impartiality in a decision and neglects to observe the well enshrined presumption that evidence willfully suppressed would be adverse if presented;

20. There is no appeal from such order nor any plan, speedy and adequate remedy in the course of law;

21. A certified true copy of the order herein sought to be reviewed is hereto attached as ANNEX "E";

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

22. The Order of Respondent Oscar M. Hamada provides and allows the TSA of ERWIN MENDOZA to be given further due course. But to give due course to the TSA of Erwin Mendoza, who, not even once appeared before the DENR, will be travesty of justice;

23. For one, ERWIN MENDOZA is not a Filipino. Furthermore, to process the application of ERWIN MENDOZA will deprive herein Plaintiff of his property without due process of law;

24. The proceedings, therefore, granting due course to the TSA of ERWIN MENDOZA would be an act exercised without jurisdiction;

25. There is no appeal, nor any other plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law;

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

26. The surreptitious and fraudulent manner by which ERWIN MENDOZA transferred the property in his own name caused serious anxiety, moral shock, anger, sleepless nights on the part of the Plaintiff which feelings, if quantified in terms of money, would amount to FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00);

27. To serve as an example to others not to surreptitiously and fraudulently transfer properties in their names, the Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA should be assessed exemplary damages in the amount of TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00);

28. In order to protect and enforce his rights and interest, Plaintiff had to engage the services of a private counsel at a stipulated fee in the amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) plus an appearance fee of counsel in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) per appearance in court;

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed that judgement be rendered as follows:

1. That for all legal intents and purposes, the Plaintiff be declared as the rightful owner and possessor of that parcel of land covered by MSA No. 1-2, 436, situated along Polo Field, Navy Base, Baguio City;
2. Ordering the Defendants ERWIN MENDOZA, GEORGE ESTILLORE and all persons claiming under his name, to vacate the premises and turn over the peaceful possession over the above mentioned parcel of land;
3. Order the proceedings herein complained of to be forwith certified up for review and after due hearing, let judgement be rendered annulling or modifying the order of Regional Executive Director Oscar M. Hamada, as the law requires;
4. Ordering Respondent Oscar M. Hamada from further proceeding with the execution of the order on the processing of the TSA of ERWIN MENDOZA and that a writ of prohibition be issued to that effect;
5. Ordering private Defendant ERWIN MENDOZA to pay the following:
   - a. FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) as and by way of moral damages;
   - b. TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) as and by way of exemplary damages;
   - c. TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) as and by way of attorney's fees plus an amount equivalent to FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) per counsel's appearance in court;
6. Plaintiff prays for such further reliefs just and equitable under the premises;

Baguio City, Philippines, February 22, 2001."

WHEREAS, Summons together with a copy of the Complaint and its annexes was issued for service to defendant ERWIN MENDOZA but the Sheriff's Return showed that the said process was UNSERVED on the grounds that there is no number as that of the given address and people residing at the said vicinity don't know the person of defendant ERWIN MENDOZA.

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2000, plaintiff through counsel, filed a Motion for Leave of Court to Serve Summons by Publication, said motion was granted by the Court in its Order dated July 6, 2000

NOW, THEREFORE, you defendant ERWIN MENDOZA with last known address at No. 57 Samar Avenue, Metro Manila is hereby summoned through this medium of publication, you are therefore required to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Branch 60, Baguio City your responsive pleading and/or answer to the above-quoted Amended Complaint within sixty (60) days from the date of last publication, serving at the same time a copy of your responsive pleading and/or answer upon plaintiff's counsel, Atty. Guillermo R. Bandonill, Jr. at Rm. 307 Laperal Building, Session Road, Baguio City and your failure to do so within the period herein prescribed will enable the plaintiff to take judgement against you and demand from the Honorable Court reliefs and remedies prayed for in the Amended Complaint.

Let this Summons be published at the expense of the plaintiff in the Philippine Daily Inquirer a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and in Baguio City, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication shall not be later than April 7, 2002. Furthermore, let copy of this Summons and copy of the Amended Complaint and its Annexes be deposited with the Baguio City Post Office, postage pre-paid by registered mail with return card to the last known address of defendant ERWIN MENDOZA.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE EDILBERTO T. CLARAVALL, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 25th day of March 2002.

(Sgd.) **MONA LISA T. TABORA**
Clerk of Court V

(PDI – Apr. 3, 10 & 15, 2002)

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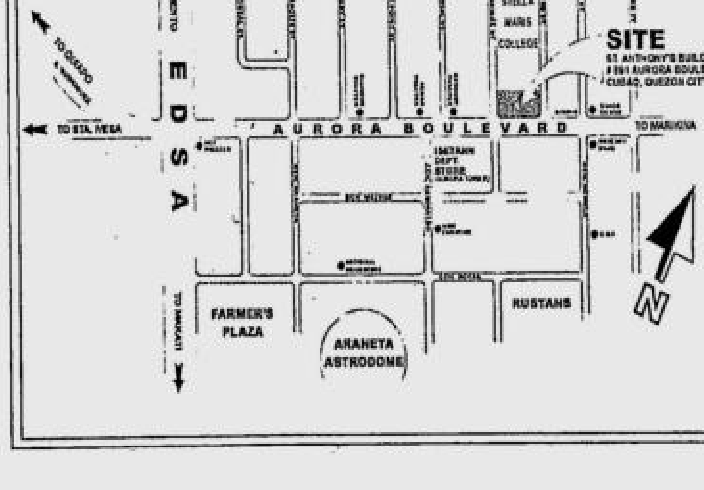

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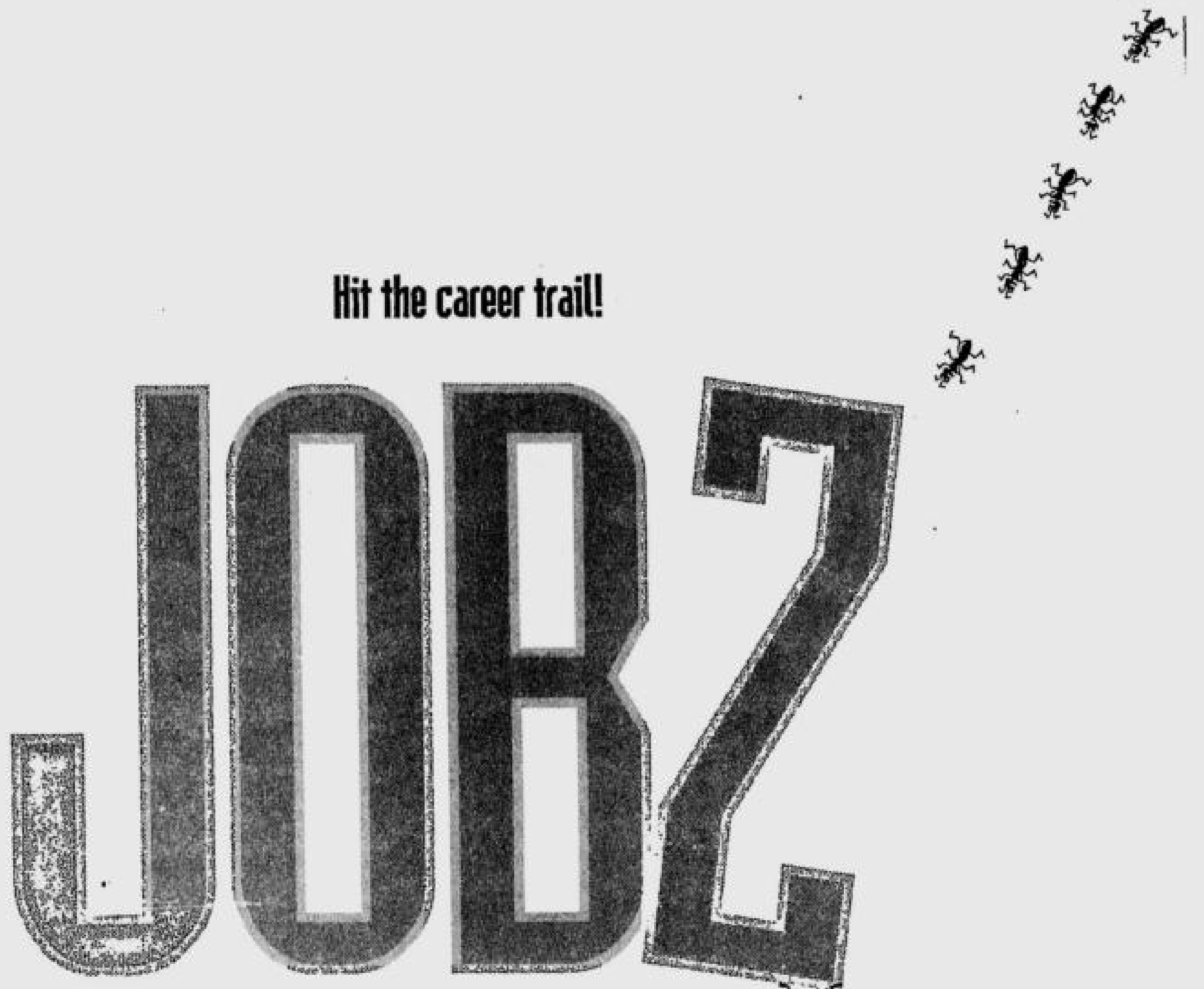

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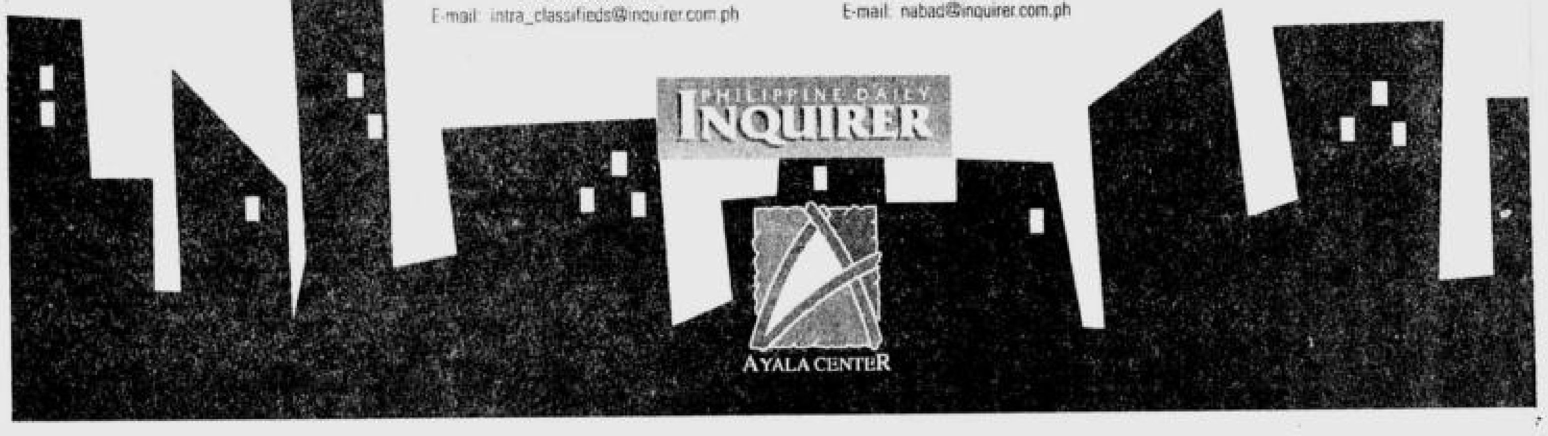

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INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Jacuzzi

Q. Who invented the Jacuzzi?

A. Candido Jacuzzi, an Italian-American who manufactured agricultural water pumps in Walnut Creek, California. He devised the special type of whirlpool bath with underwater jets in 1968, originally for his son who suffered from rheumatoid arthritis.

What's the Difference? **Steam Bath / Sauna / Turkish Bath.** A steam bath is simply what you get in a steam room, a room in which the temperature is kept constantly high by regular infusions of steam; the steam opens the pores, and the subsequent sweat "bathes" away the dirt. A sauna (also known as a Finnish bath) was originally a steam room in which attendants treated visitors to gentle strokes from birch or cedar switches or twigs, which really opened the pores. Today, a sauna is a room in which heat is generated by hot rocks (often heated electrically) and steam is not present. A Turkish bath is actually a three-step process in which the bather sits in a steam room, leaves and gets a massage, then steps into a near-freezing shower. The theory behind the process is that the body is cleaned, then relaxed, and then revitalized by cold water. (However, there is evidence that the Turkish bath was actually an invention of the ancient Romans.)

For the Record. Although the majority of shark attacks worldwide take place near the shore in shallow water, sharks actually prefer deeper water. This is because their usual method of attack is to approach the victim from the rear and below. After the initial assault, a shark will usually swim away and circle the victim until it bleeds to death. It is during this reprieve when most rescues of attack victims are made.

WORD WATCH

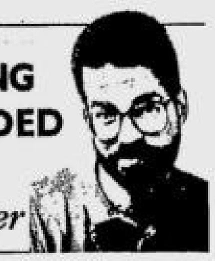
Thalassophobia (thu las oh fow bee uh) : fear of the sea.

PDI -- April 10, 2002

What do you do when a recruiter calls?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner



DEAR WW: I recently got a call from a headhunter. I haven't called him back because I don't want to risk my job and I'm not sure how to deal with him.

Still Want
To Get Ahead

Want a tip on dealing with a headhunter? Here's one from a fellow who was being hunted by the cops. He was hanging out at his favorite bar in one night when a TV crew came in looking for local color. When they asked if he wanted to be on the evening news, he smiled, gave his name, and did a lively interview right from his stool. Big mistake. The Rockford (IL) police were smiling, too, when they arrested him a few minutes later.

Of course, it's one thing to be wanted by a headhunter and another to be recruited by the police, but there's a lesson in this story nonetheless: calls from a headhunter should never be broadcast. Call the recruiter back, but do it away from work. In terms of what to say, it's usually no different talking to a headhunter than talking to the company that is actually doing the hiring. Anyone considering you for a job should be asked the same basic questions. I've adapted these from Daniel Moreau's book, "Take Charge of Your Career" (Times, 1996), which is a good guidebook for anyone involved in a job search.

1. What is the job and what does it pay? Resist the temptation to sell yourself. Remember: they called you! Spend your time getting the nitty-gritty on the job.

2. Who would I report to? Who would report to me? Ask for an organizational chart so you can see exactly where you'd fit in.

3. What are the atmosphere and culture of the company? Some companies are like boot camps; others give employees free rein. Find out if the company's workstyle is *sympatico* with your own.

4. Is the company growing, in trouble, or just coasting? You want to know about the health and prospects of a prospective employer so ask this question—but also do independent research. If it's a public company that's recruiting, go to your stockbroker or a service that analyzes public companies. Also check them out on the Internet. Private companies are tougher to research, but if you ask everyone you know for leads, you're likely to turn up data.

5. What are the company's goals? Are they trying to grow profits or market share? Supporting current products or developing new ones? (Personally, I always look for a company whose goal is to overpay its employees.)

6. Why is the job open? Is it because of layoffs and bloodletting? Or because of expansion and promotion? The answer will make a difference in terms of the climate on the job.

Finally, remember: even if you have no interest in the job, take the call seriously. A headhunter can give you the "heads up"—and a head start! —when you want a new job in the future.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll:

Which best describes your experience with a headhunter/recruiter?

—Still waiting for a call, 20.1 percent

—Contacted and hired, 29.9 percent

—Contacted but no job, 49.8 percent

Our winning strategy for dealing with recruiters/headhunters comes from Steve K. in Westwood, NJ. "Don't get into a conversation at the office. Office walls are too thin and giving the recruiter your bio is too easy for others to pick up on. And don't send your resume to everyone who calls. Too many are sleazy fly-by-nights that promise a great sounding position at a top firm, but really just broadcast out your resume to every fax number in their Rolodex. They have no relationship with these potential employers, but will screw up any future bona fide attempts by other recruiters on your behalf."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

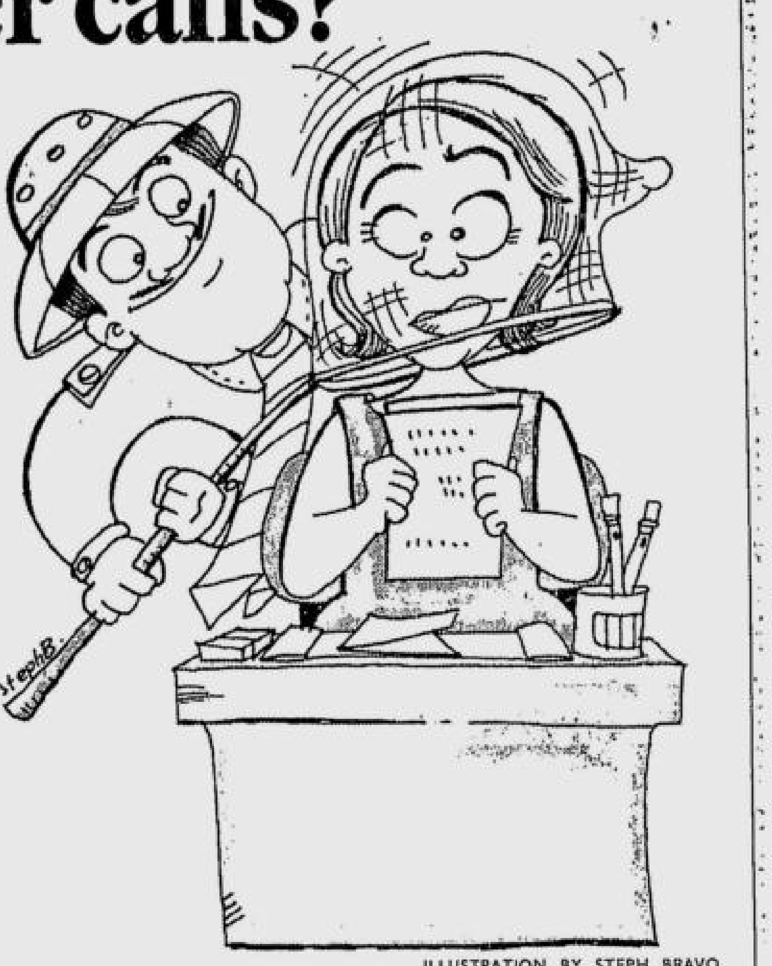


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Learn how to plan from toddlers

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

I LAID out half a dozen eggs before us: my four-year-old nephew Luis and my two-year-old niece Rocio. It was my first round of Easter egg making this year. On an average year, I sit for hours with at least two sets of kids decorating eggs worthy of being hunted and found. For us, this is where Easter properly begins: in the delicate process of turning pristine white, fragile eggs, into eggs splashed with color and infused with stories from their imagination. We always work with real chicken eggs, none of the store-bought confectionery kind that come all decorated with no room left for a child's fancy.

When the kids sit down to do work on their eggs, then the wonder of Easter truly begins. In their hands, the eggs take on a new life. Putting crayon to shell, they say, "This is a Dalmatian egg," or "This is my sister with a headache," or "This is sunshine." They instill the eggs with magnificent possibilities.

Rocio worked on her egg with gusto. When she held up her red-streaked egg draped in colorful strips, there was triumph in her eyes. Her enthusiasm darted through my spirit, zipping through 35 years to the two-year-old that I was. She reached out to the child in me and her eyes reflected back the happiness she had found there. Happiness I had somehow forgotten. Rocio reminded me of my childlike wonder and pure intense joy and ability to do magic.

Easter gives us a chance to start fresh. It invites us to ask forgiveness for all the times that we have allowed our adult fears and worries to stop us from being generous, heroic, and true to what God asks of us.

As we troop back to work this week, do not drag in your old worries. Begin again. Take on the pristine white shell of a beginner and let the colors of mothering infuse you with new possibilities. In this, our children are our best guides. What we learn from our children can make us the most resilient and creative people in our workplace.

In fact, even the best organizational change managers are taking the cue from our children. The Breakthrough Group, a London-based team of consultants that prepares companies for the challenges of the future, teaches their client executives to think like a three year old when planning their corporate future. They plot their strategy on three lessons from toddlers: magical thinking, heroic acts, and going full blast.

When planning, go for magical thinking. Imagine an egg a Dalmatian and it will be. Imagine yourself getting that promotion and you will. For a three-year-old, nothing is impossible. It can be the same for you, too. Don't shortchange your best plans. Aim for the best you can be. Think magical.

When plotting out your strategies, go for heroic acts. Don't be afraid of what other people will say. Don't let your insecurities hold you back. Don't let the what-ifs restrain you. Plot your year plan, your monthly plan and your daily goals carefully, but with the zeal of one used to doing the impossible. Grab your crayon and create some sunshine. They'll recognize it when you're done.

When carrying out your plans and strategies, go full blast. Think there is no day but today. Three-year-olds are not worried about what happened yesterday or what will come tomorrow. They give their best shot each and every time. If you live your present moment to the full, you will find magnificent possibilities.

Take it from your toddler, she does the impossible everyday. May you be blessed with Easter moments everyday.

(Ms An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of the magazine Metro Working Mom published monthly by ABS-CBN Publishing. E-mail your working mom experiences and tips to workingmom@pinoycentral.com.

Get more tips in the April issue of MWM with Sharon Cuneta on the cover.)

Fun works at work

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos Aquino

DO YOU know that People at Work is now on TV? Yes, we have a segment in the early morning show "Breakfast" that goes on air at Channel 23 from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. Last April 1, I was thrilled to be in the show and my topic was "How to have fun at work." We were not able to fully develop the topic because we were only on for about five minutes. So I am sharing with you here my research and thoughts about how fun and humor could boost productivity in the workplace.

Domino effect

Fun, joy and happiness in the workplace create a domino effect. One best example is Jeffrey Bezos of Amazon.com who is a legend not only for his innovative and entrepreneurial leadership but also for his big, loud belly laugh that signals to the employees that he is one of the gang.

Another example is Herb Kelleher of Southwest Airlines who said, "The goal of Southwest Airlines isn't to make people laugh—it is to make money by providing a transportation service and adopting a philosophy of 'fun.'"

The result of their leadership styles is an exciting culture of ambition, initiative, high moral, high productivity and low turnover among employees and incredible loyalty among customers.

The leader, therefore, plays a vital role in fostering an enjoyable and fun organizational culture. According to the research done by authors Patricia Guggenheimer and Mary Diana Szulc, humor is one of the top nine competencies of a leader.

A leader sets the fun and energizing pace at the workplace. Notice that when the boss comes in the morning with a wide smile and sunny disposition, everybody else in the workplace seems to feel the same. But when the boss comes in with a frown and seeming bad mood, everybody walks on tiptoe and speaks in hushed voices.

Value of fun

Fun in the workplace is not all laughter and jokes. It is being comfortable with oneself, having pleasant interaction with others in the office while contributing to the goal of the organization.

Fun in the workplace is not about being funny and clowning around. It is appreciating the value of humor and applying its positive qualities to enhance communication and strengthen one's persuasive abilities.

Fun in the workplace promotes not only emotional but also physical wellness. Laughter, according to medical research, releases endorphins that stimulates circulation and relieves tensions in the back and chest. Dr. Patch Adams uses fun and humor to treat his patients and to ease the pain of crossing the bar.

Having fun means taking your job seriously but yourself lightly. A playful attitude produces joy, increases energy, makes you feel better about yourself, opens your mind to new ideas, makes you more creative, and allows you to handle all aspects of your life including stress, sadness and grief.

Next Wednesday, we shall talk about fun and energizing strategies for your office and home.

ASTD Updates

You are invited to join the Paradigms & Paradoxes Consultants delegation at the ASTD 2002 International Conference & Exposition, May 31 to June 6, 2002 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. ASTD 2002 is the leading conference dedicated to linking people, workplace learning, and performance. Around 12,000 industry professionals representing 80 countries are expected to attend. You can preview the conference and exposition at the ASTD website. Visit *www.astd.org/virtual_tour*. You can register at our special delegation rate online at *www.astd.org/register_today*. As a member of our delegation, you will qualify for a special discounted rate. Insert delegation code 114072 to qualify for the discounted registration rate. Please call Ms Donna Pelobello at 715-9332 for details.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

People at work...

(From page B12)

shared her reflections on how to survive workplace change. She discussed how working people can prepare themselves for such change, and the paradigms and principles that can help one to survive. On March 20, Mark Mackenzie, managing principal of S & G International Consulting, Inc., focused on "Leading Organizational Change." He discussed how different types of change are identified, measured and managed by all employees.

The March run was made possible with the support of Inquirer Jobmarket, Equitable PCI Bank, ABS-CBN Publishing/Metro Working Mom, Edsamail Philippines, Adobo Interactive, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., Center for Leadership and Change, Inc. and S & G International Consulting, Inc. Joy Fallarme Neri hosted the three-day seminar.

The People at Work Live! Seminar Series is being organized by Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc. for Philippine Daily Inquirer.

FROM left are Ricky Garcia, Regina Galang Reyes, Joy Fallarme Neri, Moje Ramos Aquino, Mark Mackenzie, Josie Santamaria and Jon Allwood

PARTICIPANTS take down notes

PARTICIPATING in the exercises

THE EDSAMAIL team

REGINA Galang Reyes and Moje Ramos Aquino

MACKENZIE asks a participant

PHOTOS BY RICKY GARCIA JOAN BONDOC JOHNNY VILLENA BETOY JOHNSON

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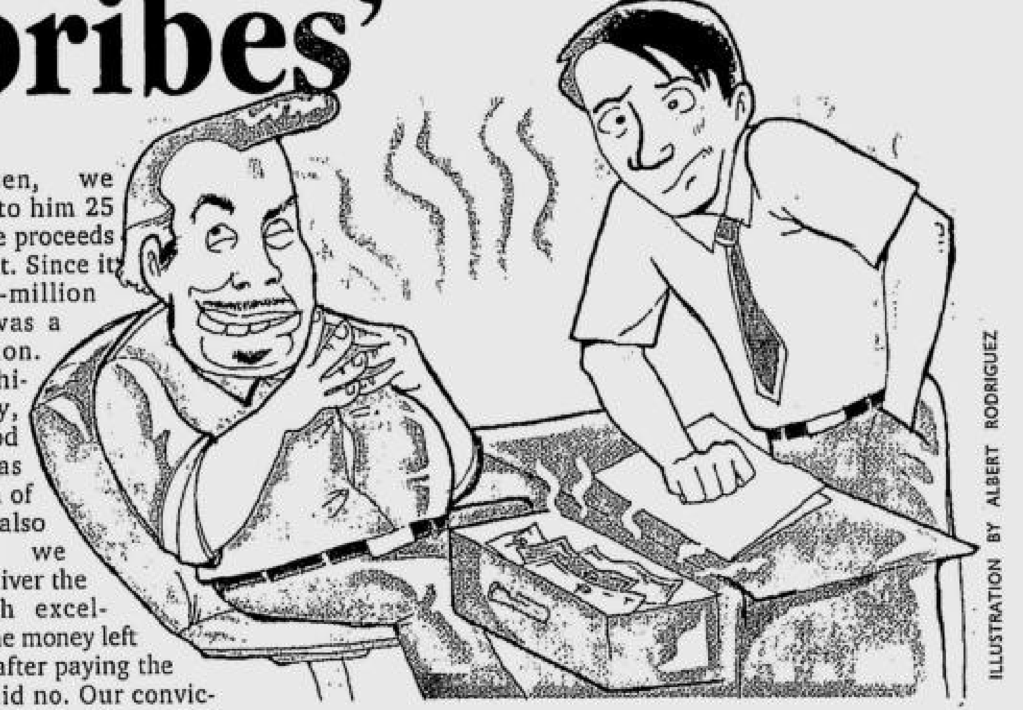
PEOPLE*at*WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

'I don't want to give bribes'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK



AS BUSINESS development officer of a company, my work is challenging and I enjoy it. But there is something about my job that keeps me awake at night. My job involves paying "facilitation fees" or bribes to people in the government agency where we transact business. My Christian upbringing tells me what I am doing is wrong. But it is a standard operating procedure in our industry. I already raised my discomfort with my superiors. I told them I would try to get things done without having to resort to bribery. They simply wished me luck and told me not to waste time. Should I stay or try to find another job? Is there hope that people in government will consider integrity as a primary value? What can I do? What can we do?

Idealistic Employee

Your situation is in the area of business ethics. Business ethics is "the code of morals or body of principles that governs the behavior of the businessman in his relationship with the government, the public, customers and competitors." The purpose of ethics is to help us determine what is right or wrong within moral standards.

There are many ways in which bribery takes place. It is not just money that changes hands. Bribery can also be in the form of expensive trips abroad or gifts. But we all know in the long run that bribes increase the cost of doing business. You are right that "there is no softer pillow than a clear conscience."

I suggest that before considering leaving your company, persist in communicating to your superiors your desire not to give bribes. Then, do your best to get things done with excellence so as not to resort to bribery. For example, why not complete all the forms or processes required so that you don't have to "smoothen" the transactions with a bribe? Or build relationships of trust and respect with people you transact business with so a bribe does not become necessary. Be prepared because the honest path is not easy.

Integrity in government

You ask if people in government will ever consider integrity a primary value. I believe that 90 percent of people in government are honest. The 10 percent who are not accept bribes for a variety of reasons. One reason is that business people bribe them to gain undue advantage. Another reason may be flaws in our culture that has gray areas. In the area of ethics, we have to deal with situations that are black or white. A third reason may be that in the government, most of the qualified people are underpaid when compared to equivalent positions in the private sector. A fourth reason is that business processes in the bureaucracy are circuitous and not transparent and complex processes create opportunities for bribes.

I remember when one of our consultants was approached by a high-ranking member of a government bidding committee to bid for a project with foreign funding. He told us that if we were chosen, we should give to him 25 percent of the proceeds of the project. Since it was a multi-million project, it was a big temptation. But as an ethical company, we understood that this was another form of bribery. We also understood we could not deliver the project with excellence, with the money left to deliver it after paying the bribe. We said no. Our conviction paid off. We discovered that there are a number of government agencies who can be objective, fair and above board.

Industry check

What can be done on a broader scope? One effective way is to check bribery at the level of industry associations. Get your association to craft an ethical code of conduct in dealing with government, customers and competition. This code must express very clearly what fair dealing means, declare bribes as taboo and put in place sanctions for violations.

Is there a need to enact new laws? Frankly, I think we have already too many laws. We just lack compliance, strict implementation and improvement of the slow justice. We have to create a culture of integrity. This means developing future leaders that demonstrate not just competence but character as well. Government has to conduct campaigns that discourage bribe giving and taking actively and publicly.

Blanchard and Peale, in their book the "The Power of Ethical Management," suggest the Ethics Check. When faced with an ethical dilemma, ask these questions: Is it legal? Will I be violating either civil law or company policy? Is it balanced? Is it fair to all concerned in the short term as wells as the long term? Does it promote win- win relationships? How will it make me feel about myself? Will it make me proud? Would I feel good if my decision was published in the newspaper? Would I feel good if my family knew about it?

I am sure there are plenty of companies who would be proud to have an employee like you. I pray that you remain true to your ideals. God bless you!

For our readers who want to talk to us through e-mail, you can join our chat group. You can register at *anxiouspeopleatwork @yahoogroup.com.*

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

PEOPLE*at*WORK COMMUNITY

Resources & Events

(The quest for fulfillment at work and learning bind people at work struggling to survive the changing workplace. With the publication of People at Work, we have found people and organizations that have a similar passion to help people at work in their quest. We have reached out to these organizations to form a community. This portion lists resources and events available from this community for people at work.)

PEOPLE*at*WORK *Live!* Seminar Series

THE SECOND quarter offering of the People at Work Live! Seminar Series is on Key Competencies. On May 28, Ernie Cecilia, president of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, will discuss "Developing Personal Mastery." On May 29, Josie Santamaria, president of Career Systems, Inc., will talk on "Increasing Your Emotional Intelligence for Workplace Results." On May 30, Lirio Mapa, vice president of the Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., will tackle "Building Synergy for Organizational Excellence." These topics will enable people at work to gain key competencies on the personal, interpersonal and organizational levels. For more information or to register, visit the web site, www.match.ph or call tel. no. 414-0186.

THE APRIL issue of Metro Working Mom with Sharon Cuneta on the cover provides parenting and career tips for the busy working mom. This issue provides valuable ifnormation on how to reduce stress, balance work and family and savor the simple joys of life. The People at Work column on p. 30 shows you how to "Speak your way to the top."

STUDIO 23'S "BREAKFAST"

Studio 23's "Breakfast," which airs Monday to Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., features a People at Work segment every Monday. "Breakfast" hosts Bam Aquino and JC Gonzales help Inquirer's Corporate Relations Head, Celine Madamba, interview the resource persons. For April 15, the topic is how to handle gossip at work.

CELINE Madamba

Singles@Work

"HAVE you heard of the saying "Youth is wasted on the young?" Older people say this because they usually wind up thinking, 'I wish I could have done such-and-such when I was young.' Well, in the same vein, a new saying can be invented, which is, 'freedom is wasted on singles.'" This is the lead of the column Singles@Work entitled "Singles shall inherit the workplace." The column found in Single Search Philippines' web site, **www.match.ph**, gives advice for singles at work.

People at work learn to manage change

LIRIO Mapa

FULL-PACKED audience for "rainbow life" seminar

MARK Mackenzie

TITA Puangco

FOR ITS opening salvo for the year, the People at Work Live! Seminar Series held a three-day seminar on "Change Management" last March 18 to 20 at the Equitable-PCI Bank Bldg. Over a thousand working people and students attended the seminar series.

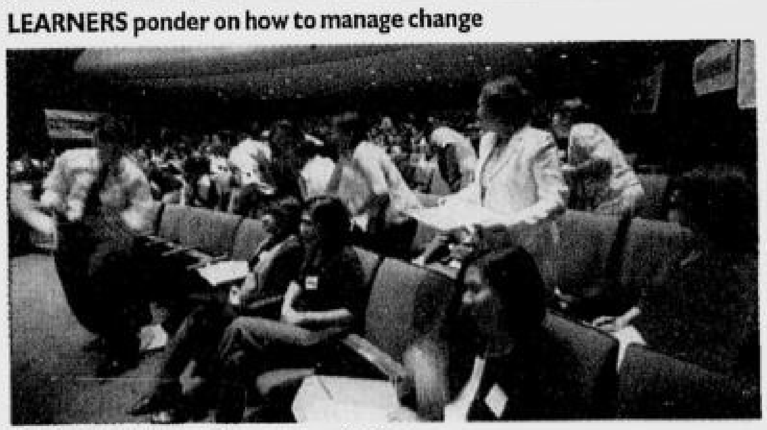
Tita Datu Puangco, PaW columnist and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc. commenced the series with a talk on "Managing Work-Related Stress." Together with her Ancilla staff, Puangco led the participants through stress-relieving dance exercises and "shibashi" movements. On March 19, Lirio O. Mapa, vice president of the Center for Leadership and Change, Inc.,

PEOPLE/B11

PARTICIPANTS listen intently to the speakers

LEARNERS ponder on how to manage change

FROM left are Ricky Garcia, Optimus Managers and Advisors Inc. marketing director, PaW editor Regina Galang Reyes, PaW columnist Moje Ramos Aquino and speaker Lirio Mapa.



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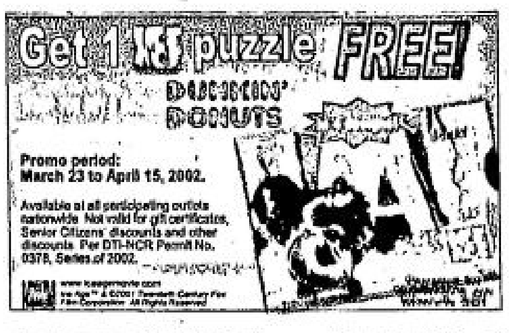
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How to enjoy a play

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

PICTURE this: You are seated in a theater, waiting for a play to begin. Around you, other members of the audience are similarly seated, chatting in low tones to pass the time. Suddenly, the lights dim and the velvet curtains dramatically rise to reveal the stage. The play begins. A story unfolds before your very eyes-an ingénue dreams, spells are cast, lovers die, and for two hours, you remain riveted on the living, breathing human drama taking place on stage.

The next day, curious friends ask you about the play. Explaining why you enjoyed it or hated it is easy since enjoying a play is a purely personal experience… people enjoy whatever strikes deep chords of emotion (think "A Little Fall of Rain" in "Les Miserables") or what they can empathize with. Evaluating whether the play was good or bad is the tricky part. Are there certain standards for each element (acting, set design, lighting, etc.) that determines its quality? A young theater aficionado and a theater insider talk about the how tos in evaluating a play and what, for them, makes a play worth watching.

Jan Denise Dizon

Aside from summer acting workshop stints with Repertory Philippines, 20-year-old Jan isn't professionally involved in theater. However, she loves watching plays. She has seen seen around 30 plays by Repertory and, as far as she can remember, some in the US, Hong Kong and Canada.

How can you tell if a play is good?

When you're drawn into the story so much that you become unaware that those are live people performing in front of you or are in the same room as you. It's when the play brings you to other places, similar to when you're watching a movie—you forget where you are.

What are the plays that you found good and enjoyed watching at the same time?

"Lion King" because of its use of puppets and the costumes were incredibly unique and different but all together effective. It's also because it isn't what I expected Disney to do [in bringing a cartoon onstage]. Unlike "Beauty and the Beast," which was basically a cartoon acted out with real people, "Lion King" was entirely different from the movie. Another favorite is "Whistle Down the Wind" by Andrew Lloyd Webber. I like how the setting and story are simple at first glance but actually deal with deeper issues like faith, racism and growing up. The music is really touching, too.

Are there signs that indicate the play's quality that viewers can look out for before actually watching it?

Well, you can read reviews about it but it's not a good idea to prejudge. I read reviews to know the background of the play, to see if it's the type of thing I'd like to see. But then I usually don't prejudge. If the review says it sucks, that wouldn't be my major reason for not watching it. Everyone has different opinions so no one can really tell [if a play is going to be good].

How about for those who aren't really gung-ho about watching plays but have to because it's a school requirement or their dates want to watch? What should they do to stay awake during the performance?

They shouldn't dismiss or prejudge it right away. Give the play a chance. Just watch it for a while and see how it goes. Who knows? You might be drawn to it and end up liking it.

So what tips can you give to someone who wants to make the most out of watching a play?

Sit in the spitting area—that's theater lingo for the first three rows—close enough to see the actors' faces. If you sit too far back, you can see the whole stage but you can't see how the actors emote. I like being up close. Don't talk to your seatmate during the show. Not only is it annoying to other people watching, you might also miss out on an important part. If you just go on and on, you'll end up wasting P3,000 on a play you didn't even watch in full.

Speaking of what the audience should and should not do, what are some points in theater etiquette?

HOW/ p.C5

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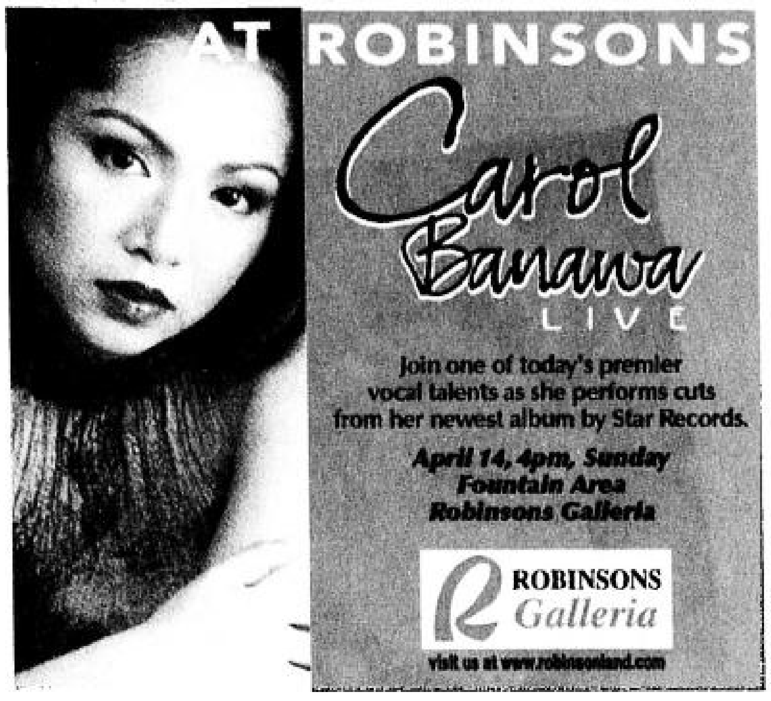
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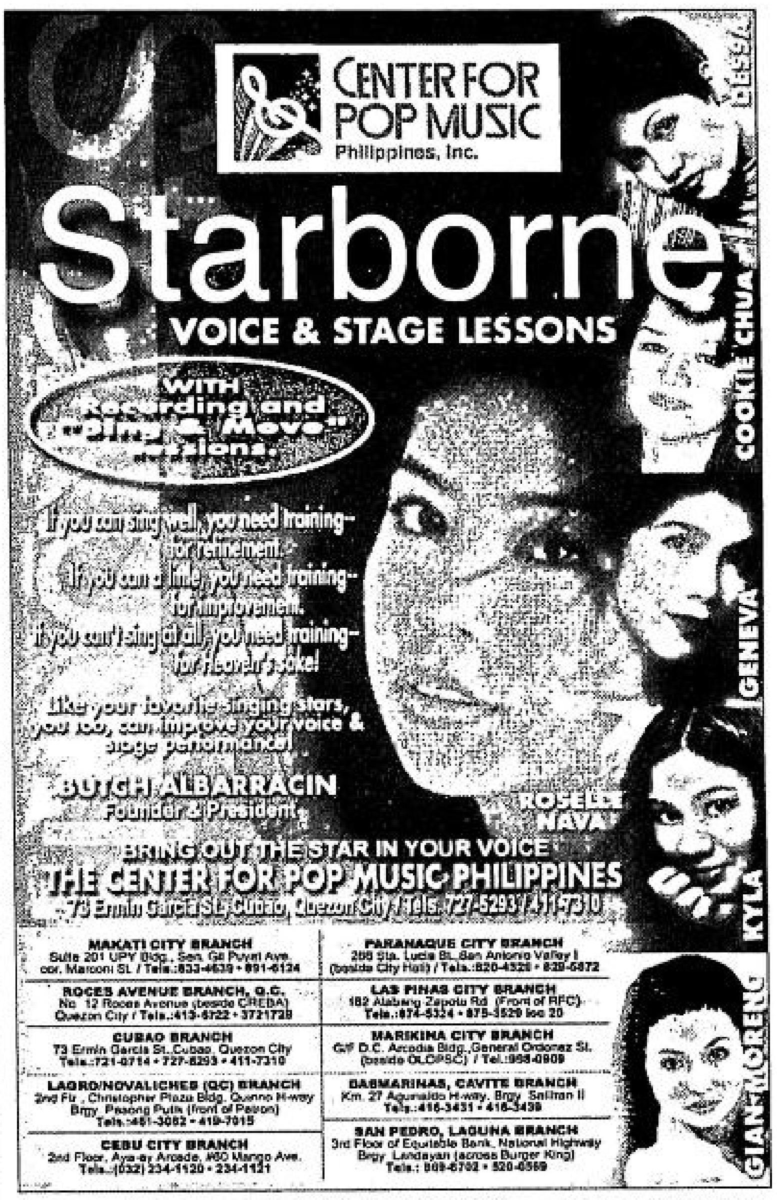
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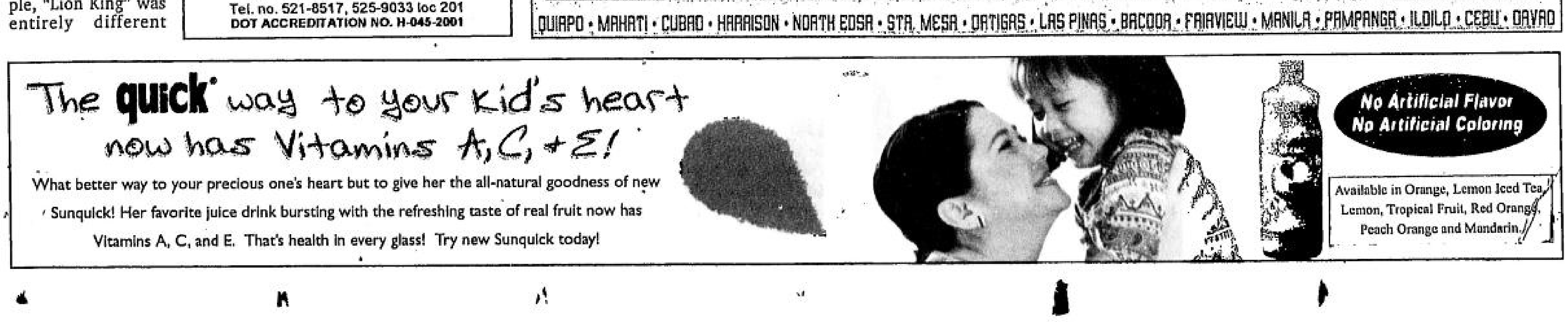
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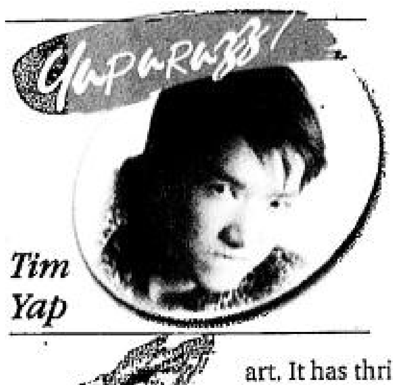
Send in the (theatrical) clowns

Cirque du Soleil's production of 'Alegria' is a triumph of theater, magic and acrobatics



Tim Yap

SINGAPORE—"Follow me. The path is dark but we light our way with lanterns. In the obscurity, we enter a realm between fact and fantasy—a world of contrast and illusion. The unexpected awaits beyond every turn."

Cirque du Soleil was founded in 1984 by Guy Laliberte in Quebec, Canada. With its exuberant and elegant productions, it is best described as a fusion of traditional circus, live theater and performance art. It has thrilled audiences around the world for the past two decades with its colorful, vibrant and sometimes absurd way of entertainment. The millennium had the production of "Saltimbanco" touring Singapore and Hong Kong. Now, a second show, "Ålegria," is drawing more and more audiences toward seeing the artsy side of this fine, fine city, part of their "Take Art" festival spearheaded by the Singapore Tourism Board.

Alegria, meaning elation and jubilation in Spanish, features an international cast of 56 performers and musicians from 13 countries. Speed, strength and skill make their acts truly unforgettable, a mesmerizing display of youthful, carefree and magical performance.

Whimsical

A marching band, all in whimsical costumes, march around the halls of the Grand Chapiteau, a full circus "Big Top" erected in the middle of the Lion City's Beach Road and Rochor Road. The crowd was thick, all rushing to the ticketrons and entrances of the theatrical venue. Kids and adults flocked to the stores to buy their Cirque du Soleil merchandise—CDs, DVDs, books, giant dolls and masks. On the other side of the strip, on my way to the Cirque du Soleil halls, a traditional Chinese opera troupe was performing as well—for free, on the park facing the production's grand venue. The difference was that it was playing to an empty house.

Inside the Grand Chapiteau, the action was wild. One act after another, from trapeze acts to fire dances and flying circus troupers was met with wild applause. In between acts, some actors would come out and interact with audiences, doing on the spot jokes and gags with game members of the audience, in true Cirque du Soleil way.

It is not that sort of production that you can describe in terms of its story, but if you do want to know about it, here it is:

In the land of Alegria, a flock of humans, like birds, populates an enchanted kingdom. The king has commanded a character named Fleur to mind the flock, so Fleur then attempts to shoo the birds. But the birds have other plans. They want to possess the other beautiful creatures in the kingdom. They ache to fly and be young again. Sounds familiar?

Amazement

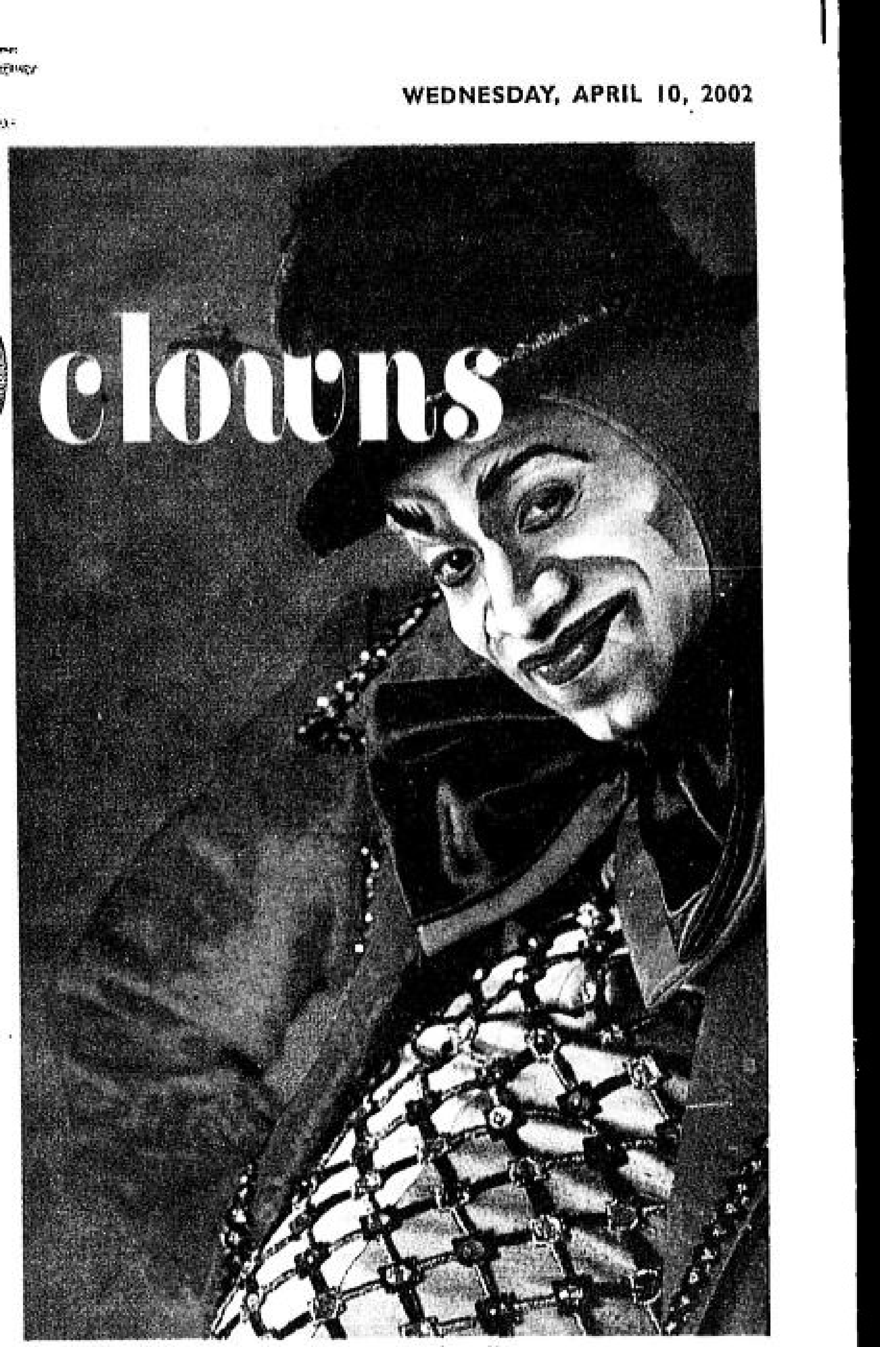
I have witnessed both productions of the circus village on the move around Asia, with both shows leaving my mouth wide open with amazement. The difference between "Saltimbanco" and "Alegria" is that the latter is a bit darker, richer in texture. It is like comparing "Superman" to "Batman" the movie, or "The Lord of the Rings" to "Harry Potter" for that matter. Anyway, it never loses its magic. It's mix of eccentricity and smorgasbord acts still appeal with audiences worldwide.

"Enthusiasm for the engagement of 'Alegria' in Singapore has been tremendous! We believe 'Alegria' offers a rare moment of beauty, an escape into an ethereal world," said Jennifer Dunne, marketing director of Cirque du Soleil Asia Pacific.

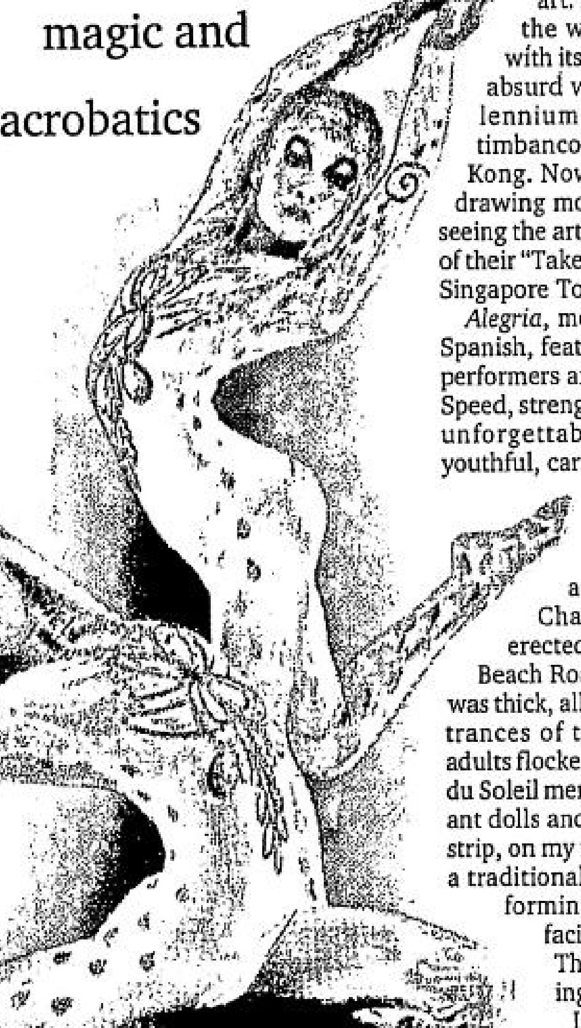
"Alegria" really looks at magic in a world where anything is possible, where the stage becomes a fantasy world, where the old becomes young and the everyone turns into clowns.

As the character in "The Majestic" said, "It is all around us—it's just up to us to be able to see it." Come and see it and believe the magic with your own eyes.

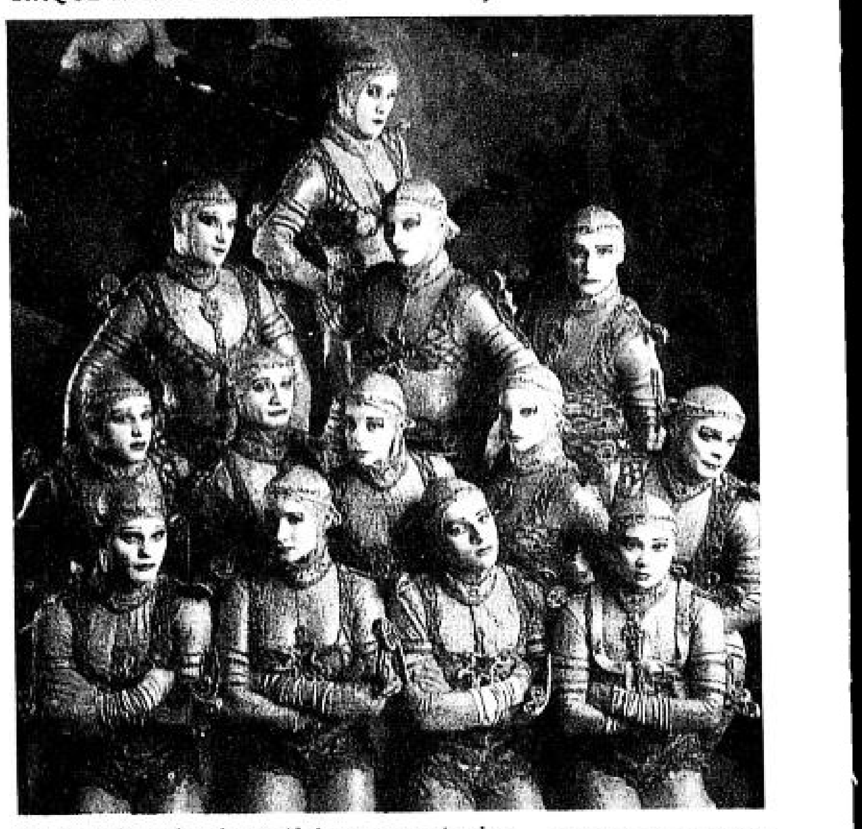
CIRQUE has been famous for combining circus and theater.



CIRQUE clown costumed unconventionally.



A SCENE from "Alegria"



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Lessons I learned from acting workshops

By Chiquit Torrente
2bU! Correspondent

I'M not an actress. At least not a real one. But I've learned a lot from acting workshops, which I've been attending since 1993. I've conducted them for the past couple of years. Besides, I have a star complex.

I enrolled in my first workshop the summer after my second year in high school. I had been bugging my mom for two years since I quit ballet to let me join an acting workshop, but she'd heard the horror stories (see Walter's article) so she didn't allow me to participate in such "emotional boot camps."

Well, that summer I got lucky. Or blessed. Trumpets, the country's premier Christian theater company, opened its first acting workshop, Playshop. Mom felt safe and enrolled me there.

Lesson No. 1

My first teachers were Freddie Santos, Audie Gemora and Jaime del Mundo. I still have the notebook where I wrote my notes from Tito Freddie's lectures on theater history, stages, characterization and stage makeup. I keep it in a portfolio where I've stored each workshop's certificate, the pictures of the friends I've made and souvenir programs that prove I acted in amateur productions.

But what I remember best about that summer was—I know this sounds cheesy—it was a coming-of-age for me. I was in my early teens and, having been raised in an all-girls' school all my life, was terribly shy and awkward around boys. That summer I met a group of kids my age from diverse backgrounds, and some of them were boys. We often had lunch at Greenbelt, and sometimes went to Glico's at Glorietta after class.

Of course, being in acting class helped—I learned to put on a poker face, act relaxed when I wasn't and be bold enough to flirt back.

Lesson No. 2

The first workshop is always the most memorable, probably because the element of surprise is still there. You don't know what to expect, you're just getting to know everyone, and because no one else knows you—you can be anyone you want to be.

My first workshop was the best for me until a couple of years ago when, after half a decade of being in the teens' class, I got to join advanced musical theater for adults. Teacher Sweet Plantado (who I'm assisting this year) was one of the best I've had, and some of the brightest names in Philippine theater signed my certificates of completion: Enchang Kalmo, Freddie Santos, Ana Valdes-Lim, Tricia Amper-Jimenez, Jaime del Mundo and Audie Gemora.

What made her so special was that she really got to know each student—and there were 30 of us—on a personal level. I learned from her not just to look inside myself for the song within me, but to trust her to help me bring it out. I guess up to that point I wasn't really serious about learning "the craft." My previous workshops were just summer fillers. But when Sweet became my teacher, I began to learn how to learn.

Lesson No. 3

Somewhere between my first workshop and the one with Sweet, I thought I wanted to be in theater for the rest of my life. I was working with a group of Playshop alumni for a production that would showcase the best of Playshop. I was also in my first year at the UP College of Architecture. We were coming up with a production called "Crying Out" that tackled the problems of teens. There were plans to perform it in a number of high schools, but after our first show, my architect-dad pulled me out so I would concentrate on school.

I was heartbroken. It took all the acting I had learned to keep my voice from shaking when I called *Tita* Enchang to tell her they'd have to replace me. I stayed away from workshops and learned calculus and quantitative analysis, elementary physics and mechanics of architectural structures for a couple of years. But the summer before thesis year, I enrolled in Sweet's class, and like the comeback-queen Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Sunset Boulevard," my theme song was "As If We Never Said Goodbye." That was also the summer I started teaching children's musical theater. I learned a lot from being Lito Villareal's assistant.

Lesson No. 3 is for me and my dad: fathers may know best (yes, I am in architecture) but a child will always find her way back to her passion.

Lesson No. 4

As mentioned earlier, I'm not really an actress. There's a phrase that describes some people: jack of all trades, master of none. And child psychologists say a child should learn to be proficient in only one or two things at a time until she is able to master a skill. One should not spread him/herself out too thinly.

Despite my "workshop credentials," I never really had the heart to be a stage actress. I chose to concentrate instead on writing and architecture, the former is something I'm proficient at, and the latter I'm still learning. But it was from acting workshops that I learned to be disciplined in my writing and in studying architecture. And it's from acting workshops that I draw out experiences and skills to share myself... like this article, for instance.

The author is working on her architectural apprenticeship at DASilvestre + Associates. Her friends think she's a drama queen, but who isn't?

E-mail the author at chiquit@edsamail.com.ph, chiquit1320@yahoo.com

Philippine theater at a glance

By Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

Local stage companies offer diverse repertoire from dramas to musicals, from classics and standards to contemporary, from foreign to local

YOU are either a die-hard theater junkie in need of a fix or a mildly curious theater-newbie wondering what's out there. 2bU! gives you a hand with a list of the more popular and established professional theater groups so you can take your pick.

Theater companies come in all shapes, colors, sizes and definitely have their own personalities. Best of all, there's always something out there for everyone.

ACTORS' ACTORS INC.

Audiences looking to give their brains a workout can watch AAI productions. Artistic director Bart Guingona makes it a point to stage "heavy" material ("Hurly Burly," "Les Parents Terribles") as part of its TNT (The Necessary Theater) series.

While AAI has dipped its toes in musicals ("Firewaterwomen," "Promises, Promises"), its strength still lies in its plays like the uproariously funny and excellently acted "Art."

ACTOR'S ACTORS INC.

ATLANTIS PRODUCTIONS

Atlantis stages the more risqué Broadway productions and rock operas ("Jesus Christ Superstar") popular with the younger theater crowd. Best known for staging "Rent," it has also staged a couple of plays under artistic director Bobby Garcia. It will stage "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" later this year.

Dulaang Talyer Arts Foundation

DULAANG TALYER

DT has garnered rave reviews for its multimedia production of "Bilog." The group stages "alternative" material like Filipino adaptations of Broadway rock musicals ("Hokbu!" based on "Hair!"), translations ("Ang Hanap Kong Ganesh") and even Tagalog plays based on Gabriel Garcia Marquez's short stories. In the same vein, DT sometimes performs in "alternative venues" like bars and rehearsal halls to provide a fresh approach for audiences.

GANTIMPALA THEATER FOUNDATION (GTF)

GANTIMPALA THEATER FOUNDATION

Remember watching "Noli" (or "Fili," "Florante at Laura" and "Ibong Adarna") in high school? Artistic director Tony Espejo stages the curriculum plays to bring literature and theater arts to students. GTF also stages the perennially popular children's musical "Tiktipaklong." It has produced many notable professionals in theater as well as TV and film.

GTF used to perform at the beautiful art deco Metropolitan Theater. Since it closed, the company has been performing at the AFP Theater and Uniwide Metromall.

Musicat Musical Theatre Philippines

MUSICAT

Formerly known as Musical Theater Philippines, this company started with the staging of the original Filipino musical "Katy!" Since then, it has served up a very healthy buffet of musicals such as "Alikabok," "Ang Larawan," the children's musical "Saranggola ni Pepe" and "Kenkoy Loves Rosing," based on popular local *komiks* character, Kenkoy.

NEW VOICE COMPANY

Girl power! New Voice Company's previous productions ripe with women's issues and sexual tension ("Top Girls," "My Sister in This House") provided strong roles for women actors. Got into the headlines with the staging of "The Vagina Monologues" and has prepared a full season for this year, starting with "Falsettos," a musical about a neurotic bisexual.

Philippine Educational Theater Association

PETA

The Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) has been around for over 30 years now. It comes out with visceral, earthy performances that touch base with very "Filipino" themes of history, current events and socio-politcs. It develops new playwrights with occasional "laboratory" performances collectively called "Komedi Club." Performances are usually held at the open-air Raha Sulayman Theater in Fort Santiago.

REPERTORY Philippines

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES

Under the artistic direction of Zeneida Amador, REP consistently delivers English (usually Broadway) plays and musicals with flair and panache. Aside from its regular repertoire of eight shows a year, it sometimes stages an off-season big musical ("Les Miserables," "South Pacific," "Evita") during the year.

REP created greater awareness for theater arts by situating its theater inside a mall. Its regular musicals ("The Wiz, "Once on This Island") are well suited to the theater novice. REP has also brought over English children's theater with its Repertory Children's Theater ("Snow White," "Jack and the Beanstalk").

TANGHALANG PILIPINO FOUNDATION, INC.

TANGHALANG PILIPINO

The resident theater company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines stages dynamic "Filipinized" interpretations of world classics usually in Tagalog translation. It also regularly stages the "Noli" and "Fili" musicals for students apart from original works by Filipino playwrights. Recently, the company staged Shakespeare's "Macbeth" and Goldoni's "The Liar" with Asian costumes and movement.

Trumpets

TRUMPETS

The first gospel theater group in Asia has staged large-scale English musicals written by Filipinos ("Joseph the Dreamer," "Little Mermaid") complete with grandiose sets and costumes. Characters with names like "Prince Christian" are an obvious reminder of its fun ministry. It will re-stage "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" later this year.

WORLD THEATER PROJECT

Artistic director Anton Juan has dished out classics ("Streetcar Named Desire," "Doon Po sa Amin"); Shakespeare ("Othello"): Greek tragedies ("Medea," "Antigone") w. .. an academic tone, sometimes giving a short explanatory lecture to audiences before the curtains rise.

WTP has done some gender-bender productions lately. It staged the Philippine premier of "King Lear" with Zeneida Amador in the title role. Earlier this year, it changed the sisters in Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as a Filipino" into brothers.

E-mail the author at waltzang@mail.com.

THEATER COMPANIES DIRECTORY

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Tel. nos. 415- 6786, 925-1933
E-mail info@dulaangtalyer.org

GANTIMPALA THEATER FOUNDATION
8005-F Tanguile St., San Antonio Village, Makati City
Tel. nos. 897-9986, 897-1533
E-mail gantimpala@pacific.net.ph

MUSICAT
Tel. nos. 897-8075, 896-4601, 842-5990

NEW VOICE COMPANY
8020 Tanguile St., San Antonio, Village, Makati
Tel. nos. 896-6695, 896-5497
E-mail nvcpost@hotmail.com

PETA (Philippine Educational Theater Assocation)
61 Lantana St., Cubao, QC
Tel. nos. 724-9637, 410-0821
E-mail peta@drama. com.ph

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES
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E-mail rep@broline.com

TANGHALANG PILIPINO
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Compiled by Walter Ang

My dream role frustrations

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

REWIND to my short-lived theater career in grade school. The drama club was about to stage "West Side Story" and I, being so ambitious, wanted to play the lead role of Maria. The club moderator told me she saw Riff, the tough leader of the pack, in me. Great.

Again in high school, where we would always act out some chapters in "Noli Me Tangere" and "Florante at Laura," I would always volunteer for the role of Maria Clara or any of those sissy *dalagang* Filipina characters and my Filipino teachers would always tell me how perfect I was for the role of Padre Damaso (I played him five times) or any villain.

I would always turn to the family's collection of Broadway soundtracks and movies to forget my dream role frustrations (Annie, Mark in "Rent," Juliet or Mercutio in "Romeo and Juliet," to name a few) because I can be any character I want but I would have to deal with the furniture and my stuffed toys as my audience.

'Annie' (1982)

Directed by: John Huston

Starring: Albert Finney, Carol Burnett, Bernadette Peters and Aileen Quinn

Plot: One of my all-time favorites, "Annie" is a must-see for naughty kids. The movie is about Annie, the lovable curly haired orphan and how she brings life to the orphanage and the house of Daddy Warbucks.

'West Side Story' (1961)

Directed by: Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise

Starring: Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Rita Moreno and George Chakiris

Plot: The star-crossed lovers are Tony, the former leader of the Jets, and Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the rival gang, the Sharks. The best parts of this Academy award-winning movie are the dance sequences à la "It's Like That" music video.

'Evita' (1996)

Directed by: Alan Parker

Starring: Madonna and the others

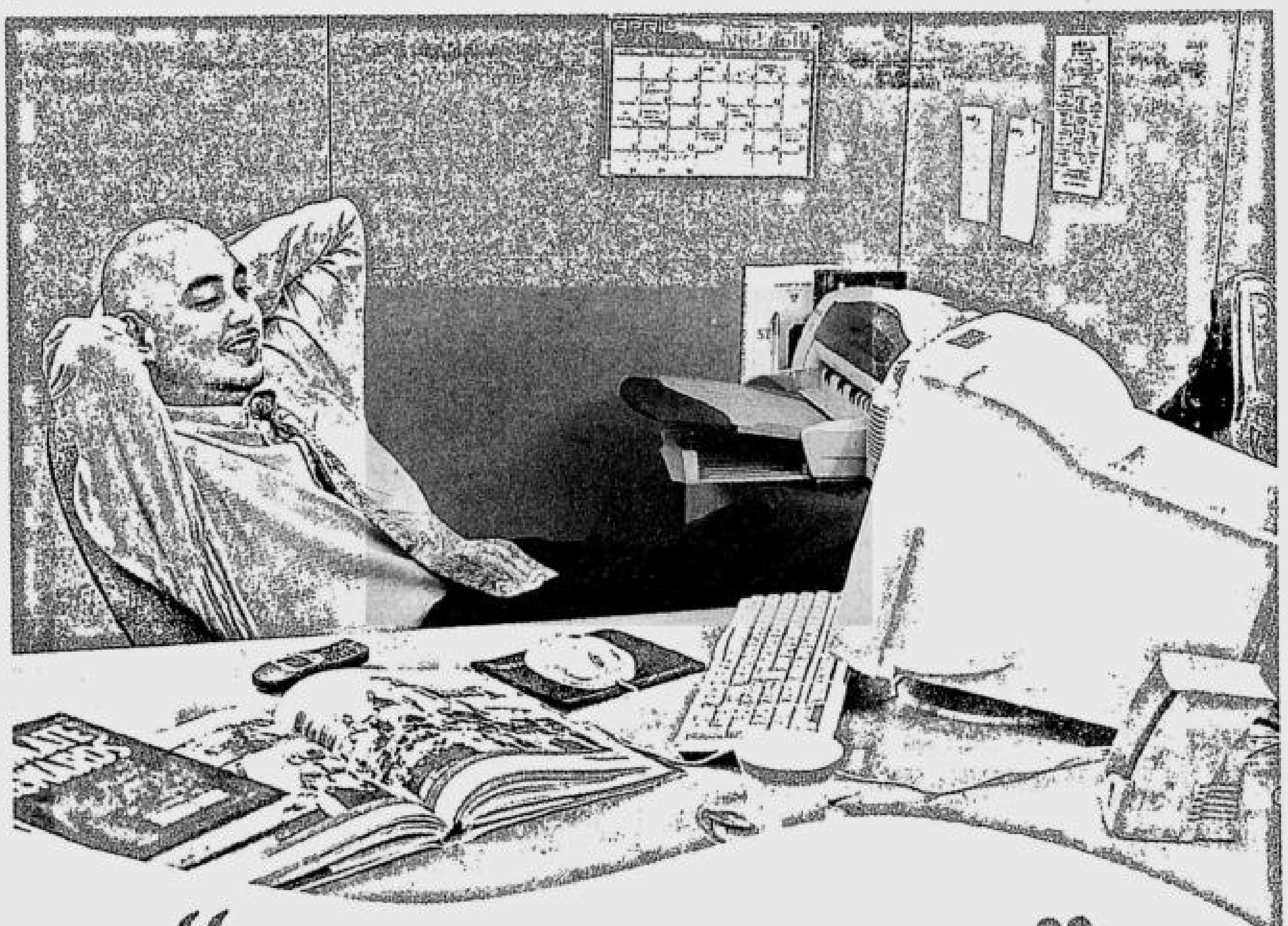
Plot: It tells of the life of Eva Duarte Peron—from her difficult rural life as an illegitimate child to her transformation as the First Lady of Argentina. I thought the movie was really lavish and good enough for Madonna's Golden Globe awards but a lot of people say the play was better, especially during the time of Baby Barredo.

'Grease' (1978)

Directed by: Randal Kleiser

Starring: John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John and Stockard Channing

Plot: One of my ultimate high school movies, "Grease" is set in the '50s. Danny Zuko and Sandy Olsen have a summer fling and try to deal with their relationship in high school. The movie is really great with the songs "Grease Lightning," "Hopelessly Devoted to You" and "Beauty School Drop-Out."



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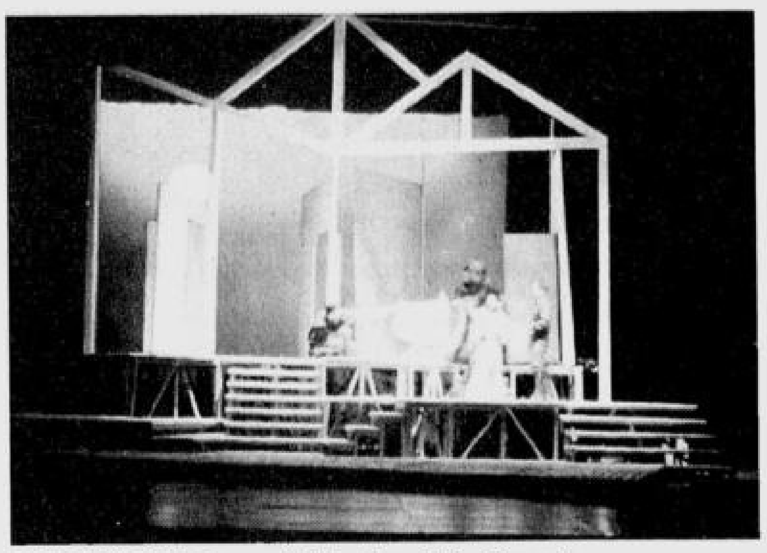


TANGHALANG Ateneo's "Taming of the Shrew"

STUDENT actors strut their stuff.

Razzmatazz on campus

Compiled by Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

ITCHING to step into the lights? Raring to build some sets and play around with costumes, props and makeup? 2bU! gives you a sneak peek of some of the more prominent school theater orgs.

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

BlueRep

It was only this year that Ateneo's youngest baby, Blue Repertory (BlueRep), was accredited as a school organization. It has come a long way. Founded by Bro. Dot Temporal, S.J., in 1991 with the musical "Pippin" as its first production, BlueRep was initially just a fund-raiser.

MABESA

After their second production, "The Wiz," the company went into dormancy. But it came back with "Once on this Island" (restaged last school year because of insistent demand) and everything fell into place once again. It also staged "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

Notable alumni include Lisa Infante (Repertory Philippines), Monique Vila and Miles Sosolio (both in Trumpets), "Points of View" host Gabe Mercado, Gerard Salonga, Tony Lambino and Jules Dacanay. *Cheryl Tiu*

Entablado

Entablado is short for Enterteynment para sa Tao, Bayan, Lansangan at Diyos. But we do know that Ateneo's nonprofit theater org is all about social and political awareness. Most of its founding members were originally from Tanghalang Ateneo, who decided they wanted to venture into experimental theater and veer away from the norms of traditional theater productions.

Entablado also teaches street kids and conducts catechisms. In fact, for every production, two show dates are automatically reserved for the street children. Notable plays include "Agnas sa Laman" (an adaptation of Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere"), which won a university award, and "Indios Bravos." *C. Tiu*

Tanghalang Ateneo

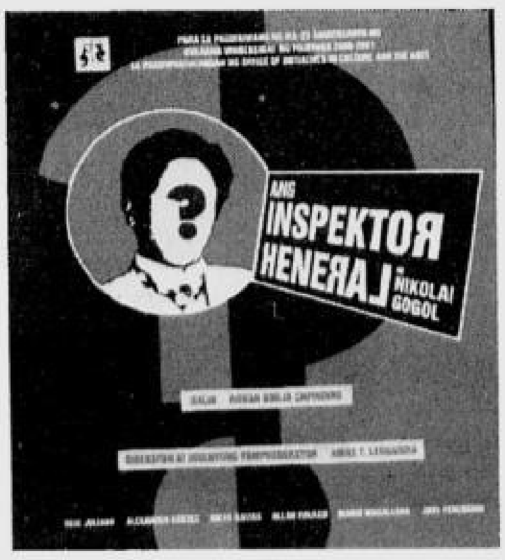
Serving to educate its audiences and to supplement the students' liberal arts education, Tanghalang Ateneo (TA) has been staging productions for more than 20 years now. Under the artistic direction of Ricky Abad, TA started out staging Filipino plays (original works and translations) and soon added English works to its repertoire.

A multiawarded org, TA has also performed off-campus and has been recently touring most of its productions at the Far Eastern University Theater and in Subic. It will restage "Pag-aamo sa Maldita," its Tagalog translation of "Taming of the Shrew," later this year. *W.Ang*

COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE

Dulaang Filipino

Barely a decade old, this org has staged productions such as "Trojan Women," "The House of Bernarda Alba" and a musical adaptation of "The Little Prince." Led by artistic director Erwin Flores, the group started out as Teatro Eksperimental, but later changed its name and broadened its goals to include staging genres from classics to Filipino productions. *W. Ang*



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

Harlequin

In existence for more than three decades, Harlequin became a staple of La Salle freshmen's memories with their production of "LaffSallite" for the school opening. The group has staged productions in an eclectic array of genres, as well as giving potential playwrights a venue for their works in its annual Playfest.

After a certain period of dormancy, a recent administrative restructuring has injected a new vigor to Harlequin. With artistic direction coming mainly from the student members themselves, the group staged "Waiting for Godot" and the musical "Godspell" recently. The company is strengthening itself with trainings and workshops. It is also redefining its artistic goals for the future. *W. Ang*

DON BOSCO COLLEGE

Teatrong Busko

Founded in 1998, Teatrong Busko started by performing excerpts and intermission numbers in schools activities. It then grew into producing quality stage plays. After only three years in existence, it has created a niche on campus.

Teatrong Busko seeks to form "good servant-leaders." It aims to lead and serve the society through the performing arts. It aims to foster self-confidence through self-expression. Every Don Bosco student is welcome to join the club, even those not theatrically inclined.

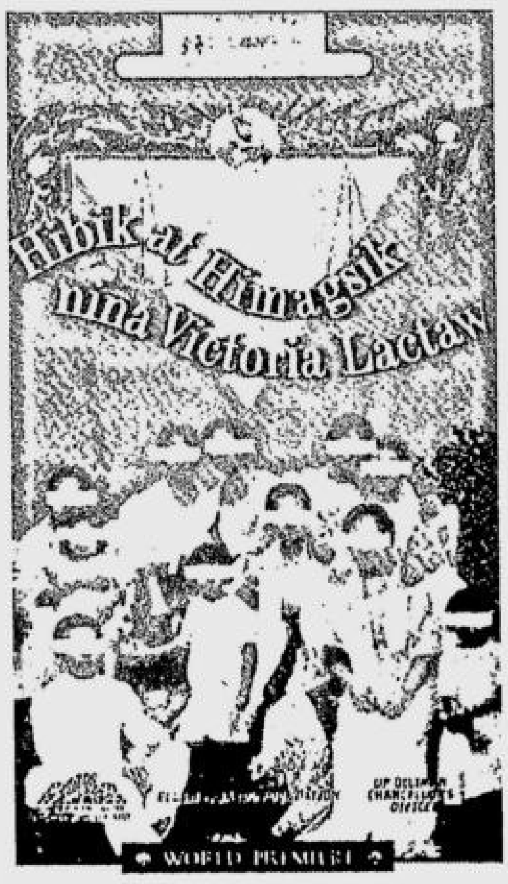
The company believes that everyone has an artistic side. It aims to touch peoples' lives and open the audience's eyes on social issues with such productions as "Miserable" (a Filipino adaptation of "Les Miserables") and "Hiblang Abo" by Rene Villanueva. *Giles Ivan A. Aquino*

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE

Sining Tanghalan

Established in 1979, Sining Tanghalan aims to reflect social truths in its productions while adhering to Benedictine values, ideals and principles.

Originally, it sought to stage straight Filipino productions. But now it has been doing experimental and even Broadway plays. It has adapted local and foreign material while cultivating Filipino Christian values. This is evident in such productions as "Dukha" (an adaptation of "Les Miserables"), "Sugo" (an adaptation of "The Phantom of the Opera"), "Salome" and "Hiblang Abo." *G. Aquino*


Hibik at Himagsik nina Victoria Lactaw
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UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Viare

Short for Via Res (Latin for "through matter"), the company was founded in 1993. It has a very eclectic program, staging the Greek classic "Antigone" and an original production on campus life, "The Ledge." It has also staged "Vertigo: Theater of the Absurd" and "Love/Loss/Liberation."

The group has also held workshops in acting and scriptwriting. It believes that theater is a holistic endeavor, and that members should be in the know about acting, directing, stage management, production and scriptwriting. *Neil Trinidad*

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

Dulaang UP

Dulaang UP was originally conceived and founded in 1976 by Tony O. Mabesa. Since then, DUP has committed to staging world classics. It has also mounted the original works of such Filipino playwrights as Nick Joaquin, Bienvenido Lumbera, Rolando Tinio, Ricky Lee, Isagani Cruz and Floy Quintos.

DUP takes pleasure in its reputation of producing highly innovative works such as "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos" and "Divinas Palabras." Noted personalities who have participated in DUP theater works include Imee Marcos, Lou Veloso, Nick Pichay, Chito Roño, Candy Pangilinan, Ricky Davao, Jorge Javier. *Michelle C. Pino*

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

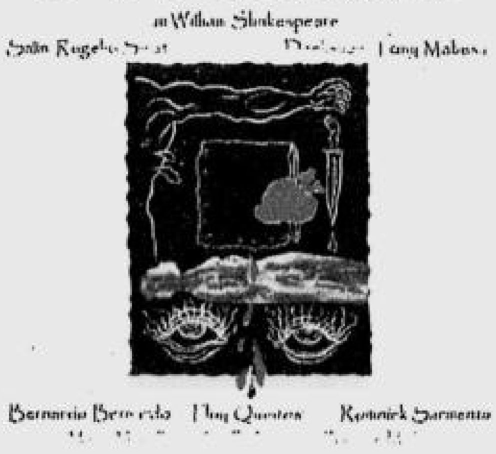
Artistang Artlets

The Artistang Artlets (AA) is the official theater organization of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, the liberal arts college of the Pontifical University. It was accredited as a student organization on July 3, 1980, with Marie Luz Datu, a senior journalism student, as artistic director. It has staged such productions as "Romeo and Julieta" and "Anino sa Likod ng Buwan." One major production, "Pagsabog ng Liwanag," was staged at the CCP.

A tradition AA has kept over the years is its Peta-run summer workshop. Around three scholars are picked and sent to train with Peta, an arrangement that has steadily built the company's stable of talents. Noted AA alumni include Isay Alvarez ("Miss Saigon"), Chito de la Vega of the INQUIRER, and Datu, who now works at ABS-CBN. Although most graduates pursue media-related jobs, some of them have taken jobs in other fields as well, like education. *Maui Reyes*

Teatro Tomasino

Teatro Tomasino is the official university-wide theater organization of the Pontifical University. Being the umbrella theater organization of UST, it organizes the Dramafest in which all the college-based theater groups participate. The organization is led by the artistic direction of the student members with strong support from alumni. Teatro also provides workshops and trainings to its members. A multiawarded organization, Teatro Tomasino counts among its notable alumni such names as Piolo Pascual, Arnold Clavio, Mosang, Dang Cruz, Eagle Riggs and John Lapus. Its alumni writers include top screenplay writer Jun Lana and multi-Palanca winning playwright Jose Victor Torres. *W. Ang*



Academic programs in theater

Ateneo de Manila University

TWO years ago, Ateneo de Manila University witnessed the birth of its Theater Arts course under the Fine Arts program. 2bU! talks to Fine Arts chair Dr. Ricky Abad.

What kinds of students is the Fine Arts program looking for?

No one in particular. There are no auditions, screening or display of portfolios. Art requires a great deal of enthusiasm and generosity on the part of the students. Have those and the program will train you.

The program introduces students to many aspects of theater work. Some think theater is only acting, and when they realize they have to learn production design and directing, and get their hands dirty with technical work, they quit. Specialization comes at the graduate level.

How do the theater arts graduates perform in the real world?

We just graduated our first batch so we still don't know what will become of them. Theater arts is not limited to acting. In fact, of the graduates this year, only one is dead serious about acting. The others are into direction, design and dance. Other options are: a) work as director, actor, or designer with professional theater companies; b) teach— it doesn't have to be arts because Ateneo students have a liberal education, and c) work as trainer in companies. A theater arts major can go into many professions where good presence and presentational abilities are required. Media and advertising look for theater majors.

Many of the Tanghalang Ateneo alumni are in law where they put their theater skills to good use in court hearings. Others are into business where they put their knowledge of people relations, marketing, and financial management in theater production to excellent use. *Melissa Telan*

College of Saint Benilde

CSB offers two theater programs under its School of Design and Arts: technical theater and production design. The two courses focus on the backstage disciplines of theater arts.

The course may attract students who think the design and technical aspects of theater are an easy ride—the rigors of the syllabus could very quickly change their minds. A freshman class of 12 may dwindle down to as few as two by graduation year, leaving only the truly dedicated to complete the course.

Students are given the chance to train in professional productions and move on to various positions in the industry after graduation, such as technical directors, set designers, stage managers, etc.

Professionals who practice in the industry are instructors in the course such as noted technical director Gerry Fernandez (of "Miss Saigon") and production designers such as Mio Infante, Eric Pineda and Gino Gonzalez.

***Walter Ang**, waltzang@mail.com*

University of the Philippines

Still deciding on what career path to take after high school? If you are inclined toward the theater, a holistic career in theater performance is what the Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts (DSCTA) offers with its two basic programs, B.A. in Speech and Drama and B.A. in Theater Arts.

Both the theoretical and factual aspects of human communication are taught in B.A. Theater Arts at UP Diliman. With a noted roster of faculty members (Amiel Leonardia, Anton Juan, Tony Mabesa, Ogie Juliano), the DSCTA encourages its students to go beyond classroom learning and further understand the complexity of social beings.

Graduates of the program have made their way to vital positions in broadcast (radio and television), film, and theater and the performing arts. They have become professional actors, directors, designers, writers, composers, recording artists and Broadway performers. They have also landed in other fields. The training fully arms a graduate with intellectual and practical resources that make them responsible and purposive communicators in any chosen enterprise.

Check out the department's Certificate in Theater Arts program. Prepare the following requirements: 1) high school diploma; 2) grade of 90, and 3) three letters of recommendation from theater artists and teachers. There are also an interview and an audition.

***Michelle C. Pino**, michikookoo@edsamail.com.ph*

Theater appreciation for dummies

From page C5

bladder and had *merienda* or dinner.

Observe theater etiquette. Please, please, get Repertory Philippines' outstanding copy, which always gets printed in its programs. You can't enjoy and appreciate the play if you're chatting with the friend beside you, munching popcorn (remember, this is not the movies), or texting maniacally. Worse, the rest of the audience might suffer with you. There's one good reason many theater companies don't allow cell phones in—even the texting signals can disrupt the sound system, drowning out the dialog with a lot of buzz. Cell phone use can spell the death of a musical.

Observe your reactions. Now, we get to the heart of the matter: the play's impact on you, personally. Generally, emotions are the first indicator, narrowing down to three choices: "I liked it," "I didn't like (or hated) it" and "I was bored."

(The play's creative team cherishes the first comment, abhors or appreciates the second, but cringes at the third. A bored audience reaction suggests the team's inability to engage the audience either on an emotional or intellectual level. As one director told me, "I'd prefer tomatoes being thrown on the stage to absolute, uncaring silence." Or, maybe, loud snores.)

But go beyond those emotional responses. What did you like or didn't like about the play the most? What was the point the writer or director was trying to make in that scene? How do you feel about that point? Did you agree or disagree with him? Why? (A more interesting variation applies if you're really upset. The play just might have rocked and challenged some deeply held values, principles, or convictions.)

From the micro, shift to the macro. What was the play about? What was it trying to say? Who were the most interesting characters? Why did you find them interesting? How were they instrumental to the development of the plot and the point the creative team was trying to make?

Then, you can focus on relevance. Is the play's message, theme, or One Great Point applicable today? How does it fit into 21st-century Manila? Have we experienced in any way what those characters went through?

Watch and discuss with friends. Verbal sparring (or sharing) adds to the enjoyment. In answering those questions with other comrades, you'll be amazed by their perspectives and reactions. You'd also be surprised at what you learn together. And as you trade thoughts and gut reactions, you'll also realize that your responses to the play reveal a lot about you.

That's another wonderful, disturbing aspect of the art: theater is a mirror that reflects truths about yourself.

Theater appreciation for dummies

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

THEATER watching should be a joy, not a chore. It's not a filler for an essay, a fad that'll make you look cool in school, or a podium from where you can lecture your admiring listeners about "the meaning of life."

Think of it as a cross between a classroom and a window into the third dimension. It's a classroom because it teaches you about the life, death, courage, treachery, corruption, honor, despair and hope, possibly from the greatest minds who ever walked on this planet. It's a window because it allows you to vicariously experience those ideas, making you emotionally and intellectually connect with characters you'll probably never meet in real life.

In watching drama, use your eyes, ears, heart and mind. Engage all your senses and faculties

In watching theater, you understand why AIDS-afflicted young New Yorkers who are probably your age can celebrate "There's No Day But Today," instead of slashing their wrists without a second thought. Or get a deeper understanding of why we 21st-century Pinoys inherited a country that's economically and culturally dependent on foreign powers, the unwitting mistakes that our larger-than-life, but all-too-human heroes like Aguinaldo, Bonifacio and Luna committed—and, if we don't watch out, tragically repeat them. Or, as portrayed by "the mega-musical" that opened the doors of Broadway to hundreds of our artists, wonder if "the American dream" is actually worth all the pain and tears.

Sure, the nobler, more substantial efforts of quality TV and movie can probably give you the same experience. But theater has many unique characters that set it apart.

Theater does require a lot from its viewers: intellectual involvement, emotional empathy and sensitivity, and undivided attention. In return, depending on the amount of participation you put in, it promises to enrich your knowledge with ideas and insights. It's not just an arty way to pass the time.

Why watch in the first place? Before trooping to your first play, be totally honest with yourself. Why am I watching this? To comply with a school requirement? To find out if it's as good or as bad as they say it is? So I won't be left out by my friends who are going gaga over it? Or maybe, it's because I'm just plain curious?

There are no right or wrong answers. They are guides to the kind of receptivity that you'll bring with you to the auditorium.

Do your homework. You're not doing a thesis; just find out the basics. When and where is the material set? Who is the author? What is he or she known for? If the play is fairly known, what's it about? The research helps especially if the play you're set to watch is a historical drama, a well-worn classic (Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, Tennessee Williams), or never-seen foreign material ("Life is A Dream"). Sometimes, even in contemporary pieces like "Rent" or "They're Playing Our Song," you still have to do a little digging.

The really good plays are like deeply buried treasure. They yield their secrets slowly. There's always more to the plot twist and characterization than meets the eye. A solid grasp of the background is a map that points you in the right direction.

Third, get an idea of the vision of the director or the theater company. Again, this is not a thesis. Just have a basic idea of what the creative team intends to accomplish before watching. The director's objective, the actors' characters, the reason behind the revival of a '70s classic—a couple of post-press-con theater articles should do it. Don't worry; these artists make sure not to give away the plot points that can spoil your viewing.

Come to the theater early. Fifteen minutes before curtains is enough time to dust off the traffic hassle and collect your thoughts. Read the program and get to know the storyline, the characters, the director's thoughts. By then, you should have already emptied your

THEATER/ p.C4

How to enjoy a play

From page C1

Turn off your cell phone, better yet, don't bring it at all. When the phone is on silent mode, it can still disrupt performers. When I watched "They're Playing Our Song," someone's cell phone was on mute but you could see the actors on stage cringing and holding their ears [because of the reverbs on the mics]—it was that bad. Lea Salonga was annoyed, you could see it on her face. Don't talk to your seatmate, people don't want to know what's going to happen next, they want to see it for themselves. Don't eat inside the theater. (For good reason: Crinkling of wrappers and loud chewing are distracting.) Come early, don't come in the middle of the performance and bump into everybody while getting to your seat. Don't bring your cameras, it's dangerous for the actors. From the stage, the area where audiences are seated looks pitch black so when there's a flash, they get blinded and may trip over the set. Keep booing to a minimum. I guess the audience is entitled to boo if they paid a lot for a production that is really bad. Lastly, do not sing along with the songs. People come to watch the musical, not you.

Ana Valdes-Lim

Ana was a scholar at Juilliard, a premier school for the performing arts in New York. She has written two books on acting, performed in numerous productions and directed plays, such as "Top Girls" and "Chess" with New Voice Company. She is currently an instructor at Philippine Playhouse, which she founded and produced.

What makes a play enjoyable to watch?

Since I'm part of the field, I'm probably more critical than the average person. I like something new, fresh and different. I'm not interested in being shocked. I want my breath to be taken away by the novelty of something fresh, something that doesn't spell around for me. Because it's live theater I expect to participate and be active as an audience.

What are some of these plays?

"Ang Sinungaling," a CCP show. They placed the logo of Celine and Louis Vuitton on the set in a manner that they looked like Chinese characters. I thought that was unique because it was very imaginative and, at the same time, it acknowledged you as a modern audience. Another would be the Royal Shakespeare Company production of "Hamlet," which I saw in the US six years ago. When Hamlet, played by Ralph Fiennes, came out to say, "To be or not to be," he looked like he hadn't slept in weeks. That was the first time I watched Hamlet where his sleeplessness bothered me. It hit me that he was confused and wasn't probably thinking straight because he hadn't been sleeping. I've seen Hamlet a lot of times, I pretty much know that Shakespeare piece, and this was definitely different.

What are the technical guidelines a person can use to evaluate a play?

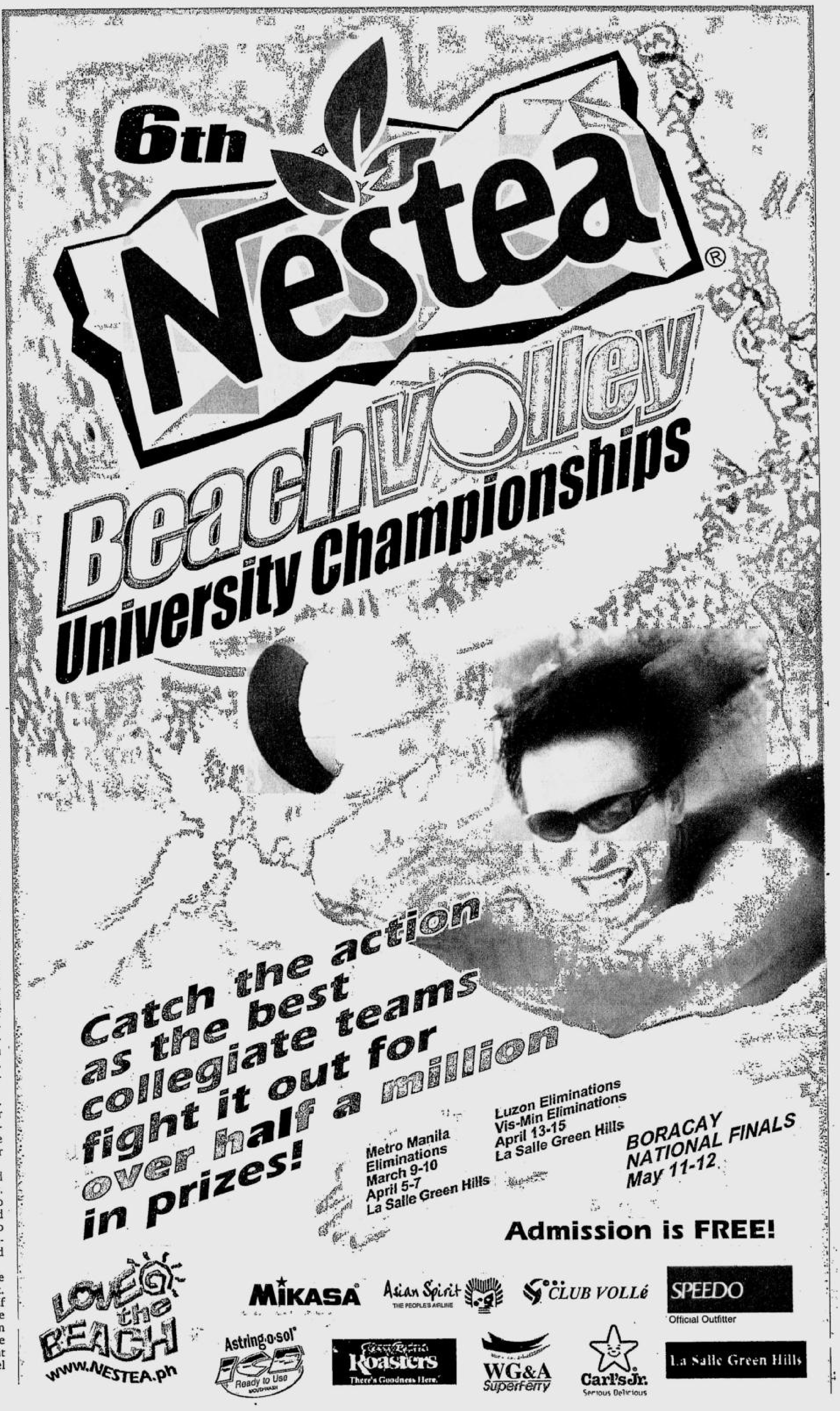
Acting—I look for something that's happening between the actors, an energy which is alive and truthful. I don't want to see a rehearsal. I could tell if an actor is delivering a fresh response or merely anticipating; if they're acting alone, or if they're acting together. Acting is good when it's rich, full, textured and layered. An actor is good when you believe him the moment he comes in on stage. You look for him, believe what he says, believe his relationships.

Set—It's bad when it's just not working. When it's supposed to move, but it's not. Or something happens on stage, when something falls or a door won't open. Like the whole flat falls... it happened to one of our shows and the audience laughed.

Choreography—Choreography is good when it looks like an extension of the acting. Sometimes movement is not just enough so you have to dance. Choreography is bad when it looks old, tired or not connected to the piece. It can't look like it's the dance companies turn to perform... it must be blended in.

Lighting—Lighting has to be part of the whole ensemble. I mustn't be too aware of it. Like, if I'm too aware of the shift in lights, if someone looks orange (unless when they're really supposed to), or when someone is in the dark. There are some pieces where the lighting is just so beautiful that you just want to go in and take a breath because you feel that you're in a forest.

E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com



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A cautionary tale

STUDENTS at the mercy of exploitation

By Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

FOR MOST theater professionals, their first foray into the stage is the school production. For a lucky few, their first taste of the lights would be with a professional group. If this first production went well, it would serve to inspire its participants to pursue the craft further.

Every once in a while though, it is not all roses. A company staged "Oedipus Rex" last year and "Two by Torre," a twin bill of PDI columnist Nestor Torre's works, earlier this year. Aside from hiring known actors like Paolo Fabregas and Chiqui Xerex-Burgos for "Oedipus" and Bianca Lapuz for "Two," the company hired mostly students for the supporting cast.

The producers and directors enticed the student actors with promises of salaries and made them sign contracts. Twenty-two-year-old Ryan Lastra, a marketing graduate who had been in both productions, said, "But many things were not in the contract. Such as having the actors change the sets and bring their own costumes."

Another cast member, 19-year-old Gareth Guevarra said, "Of course we don't mind moving the sets or bringing our costumes, but this kind of thing is usually clarified at the beginning. They did not."

Lastra had been in student-run productions before. "And they were better managed than this supposed professional group. The student productions I had been in had stage managers and stage crews. With this group, we had none," he said.

> Be careful what theater companies or drama workshops you join. Some stage groups are exploitative and abusive

Travesty

Inconsistencies in the contract were just the beginning of the cast's problems. At P150 per ticket, it's easy to see how much a show can earn, even in a theater with a moderate seating capacity. Yet from the stories of the cast, it would seem none of the earnings trickled down to them.

Two actors who alternated for a role were made to share only one talent fee and were required to be at the theater for each performance even if the other was not performing.

Cast members who came in late were penalized for P10 per minute, but there was no attendance sheet and valid reasons for tardiness and absences were not honored. "They played favorites. Some people had deductions and some didn't," Guevarra said. "Even Ate Bianca (Lapuz), who had shared some of her costumes with the cast, was given deductions for tardiness."

"Some cast members who were students of

A CAUTIONARY/ p.D2

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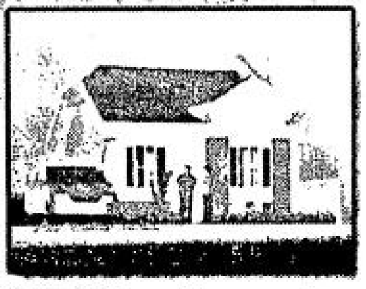

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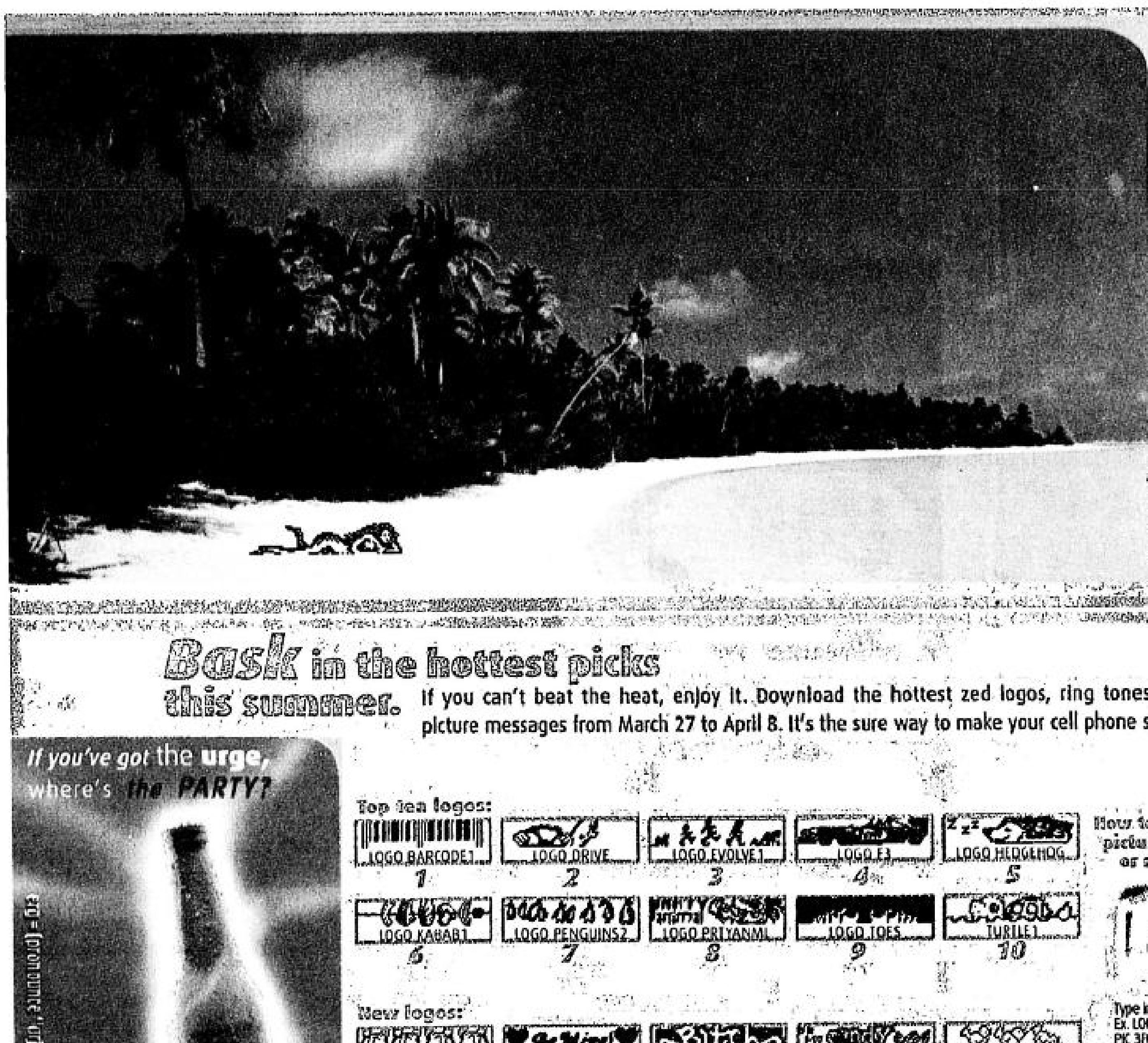

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A cautionary tale

From page D1

one of the directors, a college professor, were afraid to speak up. But those who kept quiet got it the worst. The ones who spoke up about the unfair deductions got at least something back," Guevarra added.

"I've worked with so many theater companies already. *Sila lang ang ganyan*," said Lapuz.

Out of town

When the production of "Oedipus" toured Baguio last year, the cast ended up sleeping on the floor (includingXerex-Burgos) while the producers and their families were able to stay in rooms with beds. Even though they arrived at 3 a.m., the producers required them to be at the theater by 8 a.m. to set up the stage for the 10 a.m. show. "And there was only one bathroom for about 30 people!" said Lastra.

The cast had been given food allowances for a mere two meals a day—a day that included setting up the stage, giving three performances and dismantling the set. "But you had to walk so far before you could find a place that had food!" said Xerex-Burgos.

The production sometimes got food sponsorships, but instead of providing the cast with food, the producers sold it to them. "In fact, one fast-food hamburger chain refused to sponsor them anymore when they found out about this practice," said Lastra.

Captive audience and cast

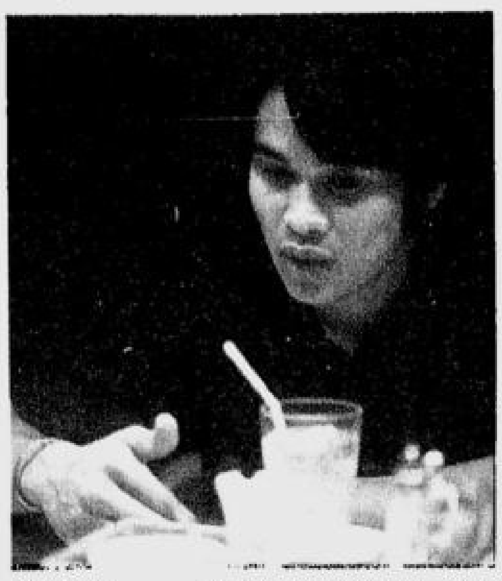
When "Oedipus" was staged at the GSIS Theater last year, each actor was required to sell 10 tickets each. "The reason they gave us was that their marketing wasn't doing so good. That was still our problem," says Guevarra.

In the production of "Two," one actress returned her unsold tickets two weeks before the deadline but the producers refused to acknowledge this. Now she owes them P50,000.

Given all the less-than-professional treatment the cast members received, they emphasize that the money, extra manual labor and lack of better accommodations weren't really the major issues, rather, the lack of respect for people and their craft.

GUEVARRA

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN


LASTRA

SPECIAL THANKS TO RICCO OCAMPO AND ROSE PASCO OF KITCHEN GREENBELT

The cast had been told by the producers that the budget for the set was around P100,000. Yet, in the Baguio and Laguna tours of "Oedipus," the cast was instructed to just use chairs and tables that were lying around. "How can the audience appreciate theater when even the sets are not well made?" said Lastra. "And when they sold souvenir programs during intermission, they would call out '*Pang*-reaction paper! *Pang*-reaction paper!' like they were selling peanuts or popcorn."

"This will make the student audiences think that theater is just a money-making venture with no arts or skills involved. They're going to hate theater!" Guevarra said.

Emotional investment

These two young thespians know how much the student cast gives in a production. There is a physical, mental and emotional investment that can reap rewards if nurtured but becomes a great loss when abused. Xerex-Burgos said strongly, "It pains me to hear students say, 'I never want to work in theater again!'"

Established professionals in the theater industry bemoan unprofessionalism and have a livid contempt for "fly-by-night" operations. They recommend that theater aspirants ask around first if they're unsure of the company or people they'll be working with. If the company insists on a signed contract, they should insist on getting their own copy.

As for workshops and courses, they should always demand for a copy of the syllabus—if the company offering the workshop doesn't know what it's going to teach you, what's the point? Ask who the instructors are and what teaching background they have—just because someone is good at what he does, it doesn't mean he'll be good at teaching it. In any kind of work or industry, there are always bad eggs. The best way to avoid them is to be careful and be constantly vigilant.

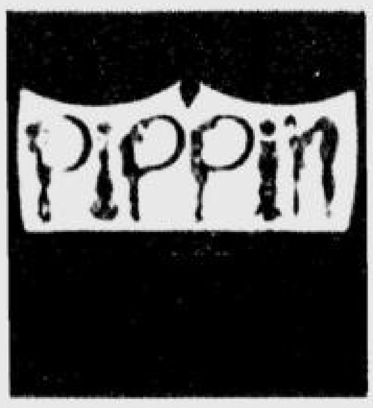
Broadway heroes who have touched our lives

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

BECAUSE of our love for music, we find musicals to be entertaining. Such love for songs makes us deeply empathize with the characters, be it an Asian like Kim in "Miss Saigon" or an American like Danny in "Grease." These [illegible] have given us characters who have touched us in one way or another, either because we can relate to them or they represent something that we value. Many of these characters have been taken from Western musicals but their stories and personalities have struck us in ways that transcend racial and cultural boundaries, and made us remember them as our favorite musical heroes.

They are characters that have transcended all boundaries and become our favorite Broadway heroes

Grease
THE MUSICAL



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

MY FAIR LADY

Eponine ('Les Miserables')

Many female viewers probably sang "On My Own" many weeks after they watched this play. I remember my circle of friends singing it over and over again. A tragic heroine, Eponine pines for Marius, who is in love with another girl. Poverty-stricken and suffering from a corrupt system, Eponine represents strength in the midst of sheer difficulties.

Joseph ([Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat])

I was impressed when our high school drama club staged this musical, with my ever-so-talented classmate Cria in the title role. In this play, Joseph becomes more human with his victory over a disturbing childhood and his struggles in adulthood. His strong faith makes him a great hero.

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Kim ('Miss Saigon')

Kim is someone many Pinoys adored in a play that catapulted Lea Salonga to international stardom. Her faith and hope that she and her lover Chris would be together again despite the odds is what kept her alive. She transforms from a young girl to a protective, loving mother who wants her child to survive in the midst of trying times.

Dr. Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle ('My Fair Lady')

Eliza Doolittle, the chocolate lover and a speech teacher's nightmare, easily wins over audiences because of her charm. Her teacher, Dr. Henry Higgins, tries hard to make Eliza fit in the upper-class society and supplies her with sweets. Their teacher-student relationship metamorphoses into an unlikely romance.

Sandy and Danny ('Grease')

The duo who popularized leather jackets and flashy cars, Sandy and Danny personify the quintessential retro couple. This musical's movie version made the characters household names as well as our parents' idols during the '70s. Peer pressure, love and blending in were the issues these characters handled, hence the young were able to relate to them.

Seymour Krelborn ('Little Shop of Horrors')

A nerdy character, Seymour makes for an unlikely hero in a world that prizes good looks and wealth, but he nevertheless wins the hearts of audiences. His love for Audrey gives him the courage to stand up to her sadistic dentist boyfriend. His relationship with his cultivated man-eating plant, which he christens Audrey II, makes for an interesting plot.

Rizzo ('Grease')

Some may consider this tough character more of a villain than a heroine, but Rizzo comes out to be one of those strong females who says what she thinks. The Pink Lady with an attitude shows her flaws and soft side when she suspects that she's pregnant. She begins to explicitly acknowledge what other people think of her, thus giving depth to her character.

Jean Valjean ('Les Miserables')

One of the most embittered characters on Broadway, Jean Valjean, released on parole after 19 years, finds out that his yellow ticket-of-leave condemns him to a life of an outcast. His struggle to survive leads him to steal from the Bishop of Digne. But the bishop's forgiveness makes him decide to start his life anew. Later on, his decision not to take the life of the man who wanted to kill him displays an almost divine sense of forgiveness.

The Phantom ('The Phantom of the Opera')

The haunting appearances of The Phantom send a lot of chills down the spines of audiences, but his desire for human contact shows his human side. I was particularly struck at how his masked visage seems to be a metaphor for the discrimination he's been experiencing because of his deformity.

Pippin ('Pippin')

This is one character a lot of young people can relate to. A young prince searching for his own "corner of the sky," Pippin decides to become a soldier, and ends up murdering his father Charlemagne when he finds out he was slaying thousands of men again. His war experiences, the temptations of the flesh, and political power make him realize that true happiness lies in the simple pleasures of home and family.

E-mail the author at unicorn@csi.com.ph

MAUREEN

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CHING

2BU! SURVEY

What's your fave play or musical?

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

Les Misérables

The PHANTOM of the OPERA

Miss Saigon

THE STAGE is set and the lights are on. The actors are ready and the curtains are about to be raised. Just as the audiences get ready for another hour or two to get away from the world and enter the magical realm of theater entertainment, the spotlight is on them.

Don't get jittery, though! This is your time to shine as 2bU! makes a survey on your favorite play or musical.

"Les Miserables" gives us a glimpse of a society desperate for change. The songs are haunting, especially Valjean and Javert's duet. The musical is a wonderful rendition of Victor Hugo's masterpiece and leaves the audience something to think about.—**Yasmin, 17, UP Diliman**

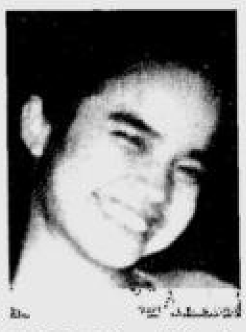
"Oedipus Rex." Paolo Fabregas is one hell of an actor. He's cute, too.—**Kat, 18**

I was introduced to musical plays late and realized what I've been missing. From then on, I've always loved Holbein's "Dance of the Death," especially when the first part of the play started with Paganini's "11th Caprices." It really hit me hard and inspired me a lot.—**Armand, 20**

"Vagina Monologues"... totally empowering!"—**Maureen, 19, Miriam College**

"Les Miserables." *Kasi, wala lang!* I like it.—**Gian, 19, UST**

"Phantom of the Opera." I love tragic love stories. The songs are really good, too. My favorites are "All I Ask of You" and "Music of the Night."—**Vic, 22, UST**


"MISS Saigon" *kasi* I like Lea so much. I love the songs *din*, especially "Sun and Moon."—Sunshine, 17, Miriam College

"Rama at Sita." The costumes, the whole production, the actors really took me to India.—**Mike, 21, UST**

"Grease" is my favorite *kasi ang* cool *ng* leather jacket.—**Paolo, 18, DLSU**

"West Side Story" because I like tragedies.—**Grace, 19, College of the Holy Spirit**

I like "Cats" and "Les Miserables" but "Miss Saigon" really swept me off my feet. The actors, the stage, the music, everything was just amazing.—**Chinny, 18, UST**

"Les Miserables" because the plot, the music were really good. Its focus on freedom was a plus.—**Aira, 19, PLM**

"MISS Saigon" is my favorite. Emotions are really high, and that musical really touched me.—Karen, 19, College of the Holy Spirit

"Miss Saigon." Even if I didn't catch the main cast, the alternates were great. The Engineer was my favorite. Leo Valdez was really good.—**Benjie, 19, UST**

"Miss Saigon" is the best! The songs are really good. "Sun and Moon" and "American Dream" are my favorites."—**Jayvee, 18, DLSU**

"Cliffhanger" at Repertory. *Ang galing ng* story and super funny *yung* characters.—**ChiChi, 21, UST**

"Into the Woods." It's funny, it's tragic. It teaches so many of life's lessons. Act 1 ended on a happy-ever-after feeling, but in Act 2, so many characters died. Plus I love the lyrics. It is really hard to memorize though.—**Green, 23**

I love "Miss Saigon" *kahit na* I was seated at Balcony 2 *na* super *taas* and I didn't have my binoculars. I enjoyed thumb-sized Lea *naman* with my friends.—**Franz, 18, UST**

"Les Miserables' *kasi* I'm like Eponine... I'm on my own.—**Sam, 18, Miriam**

"Jesus Christ Superstar" *kasi* anything with Basti Artadi rocks! —**Rexy, 19, UST**

"Paris and Alexander" sa UP. They struck me *talaga kaya* I still don't get why they have to be butt-naked. Front seat *pa naman ako. Siguro* for art's sake.—**Angela, 18**

"Les Miserables." I want to be the female Jean Valjean, if that would be possible. He's like all of us—someone who's trying to mend the injuries he had caused but is choked by the haunting of his past. Still, he continues to chase his goals.—**Janica Racho, 18, UST**

E-mail the author at s_a_l_e_e_m_a@yahoo.com

Shakespeare on screen

By Çatherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

REVIEWS

WILLIAM Shakespeare certainly has come a long way. This is an especially impressive feat for a playwright whose works have confounded a student, what with all the big words and historical references. The published versions of his plays usually have comprehension aids placed at the bottom of the pages to help the struggling reader unlock and understand the mysteries behind the Bard's blank verses.

The past few decades have witnessed the translation of these plays into a language more accessible to many audiences: movies. Now the public finds it easier to see a Shakespeare play by renting VHS tapes, VCDs or DVDs and watching in cinema theaters rather than dressing up for stage productions whose show times many find inconvenient. While nothing beats watching these plays on stage, it is such a relief to know that you would be able to at least understand the story just by keeping your eyes glued to the screen. Hopefully, these film adaptations will inspire readers to watch them in stage plays. Here are a few good movies based on the timeless masterpieces of one of the world's greatest dramatists:

"10 Things I Hate About You" (1999)

10 things i hate about you

A modern-day version of "The Taming of the Shrew," "10 Things" features young talents Heath Ledger, Julia Stiles, Larisa Oleynik and Joseph Gordon-Levitt. Bianca Stratford (Oleynik) is a frustrated teen who is not allowed to date unless her older sister Kat (Stiles) does. Unfortunately, the once-popular "shrew" of the house is vehemently opposed to any sort of dating ritual. However, this changes when she meets Patrick (Ledger), who is actually hired by Cameron (Gordon-Levitt) to woo the older Stratford. Meant for the younger generation, this movie is a hilarious remake and makes some of us realize the difficulties of adolescence. One thing to watch out for is Heath Ledger's song rendition of "Can't Take My Eyes Off You."

"Richard III" (1995)

RICHARD III

Shakespeare's frequently staged play, "Richard III" features Ian McKellen in the title role as England's most ruthless monarch who climbs his way to power by eliminating those who stand in his way. This time, the story is set during a fascist coup in the 1930s England, but with the same plot. McKellen utters the famous line "A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!" as his jeep gets stuck in the mud. Annette Bening and Robert Downey Jr. costar.

"William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet" (1996)

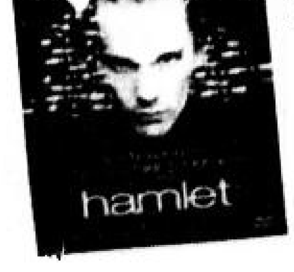
ROMEO + JULIET

One of the early modern-day Shakespeare films that invaded the teen market, this Baz Luhrmann version of the popular tragedy bestowed the heartthrob titles on Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. The feuding Capulets and Montagues cannot stop the romance of Romeo and Juliet from blossoming. Set in contemporary society mixed with gaudy old-world flavor, this film remains true to the Bard's words and at the same time makes it understandable to adolescent audiences.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" (1999)

"Midsummer" was the first Shakespeare play I came across, and to this day it remains my favorite. The mortal mixes with the mythological as a love quadrangle and a play-in-the-making lead the characters to the fairy world. Puck (Stanley Tucci) is King Oberon's (Rupert Everett) servant who tries to please his master but ends up complicating the lives of the humans' love lives. Queen Titania (Michelle Pfeiffer) becomes magically bewitched by Bottom (Kevin Kline). The film clearly ties in all these stories together. With the costumes and sets, it does not make for a bad film, although I felt a bit drowsy in the end.

"Hamlet" (2000)



Watching this film during the first few minutes, I had my doubts. Another modernized version, "Hamlet" initially made me think it was not a serious movie. The king of Denmark is now the CEO of Denmark Corp. in New York, and the ghost of Hamlet's father disappears in a scene with a Pepsi vending machine as background. Hamlet (Ethan Hawke) is a film student who returns home after his father's death. The filmmaker presents Hamlet's soliloquies in a wonderful manner. Instead of the character talking to himself, these monologues become his thoughts. Set in the modern world—royal robes become trench coats, bells become telephones, servants become security guards—the film is an interesting take, although the way they address each other—"My lord"—in the middle of Manhattan seems strange.

"Looking for Richard" (1996)

Many Shakespeare fans overlook this "Richard III" fil— considering it's actually one of the few, if not the only one, Shakespeare movies that give an explicit analysis of the play. Directed by and starring Al Pacino, it's a coherent mix of a feature film, a documentary and a man-on-the-street video that makes Shakespeare more accessible. It gives us the "Richard III" play, but also shows behind-the-scenes rehearsals of the actors, interviews with English professors, short clips of Shakespeare's bio and survey on what ordinary people think of the Bard. The result: a watchable film that is part entertainment and part book notes.

"Titus" (2000)

"Titus Andronicus" is considered by many as Shakespeare's worst play, but the movie version is worth watching at least once, if only to see the great Sir Anthony Hopkins at work. Hopkins plays the celebrated Roman warrior who returns from victory in the battlefield to bury his slain sons. He vows to avenge their deaths by killing the eldest son of his enemy and the queen of the Goths, who responds by seducing and manipulating the new emperor.

"Twelfth Night" (1996)

A shipwreck separates the twins Viola and Sebastian. Believing Sebastian to be dead and fearing for her safety, Viola (Imogen Stubbs) disguises as her brother under the name Cesario. She is employed by Duke Orsino (Toby Stephens) as a go-between in his courtship of Countess Olivia (Helena Bonham Carter). Lady Olivia, upon seeing Viola, falls in love with her. When Sebastian appears, Lady Olivia mistakes him for Viola and marries him. This hilariously tangled web is cleared up eventually, with a happy ending at that.

"Macbeth" (1978)

Ian McKellen
Judi Dench
MACBETH

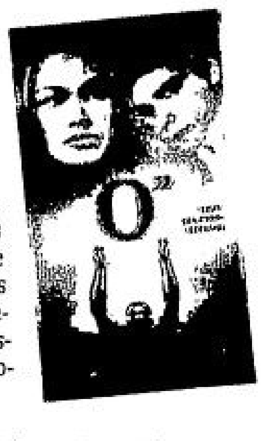
Another favorite of mine, "Macbeth" is the play that's famous for the lines "Double, double, toil and trouble/ Fire burn and cauldron bubble." Macbeth (Ian McKellen) meets his friend Banquo who just came from battle. From Banquo, the former learns the witches' predictions, one of which is that he is to become king of Scotland. Encouraged by his wife (Judi Dench), Macbeth murders King Duncan and inherits the throne. However, Lady Macbeth becomes a sleepwalker because of her guilt, and Macbeth is killed and succeeded by King Duncan's son.

"Love's Labour's Lost" (2000)

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

Kamiseta model Alicia Silverstone tries her luck with Shakespeare in this song-and-dance adaptation. The King of Navarre (Kenneth Branagh) and his friends Berowne, Longaville and Dumain vow to live without the company of women. This vow is hampered when the Queen of France (Silverstone) and her three beautiful female companions arrive unexpectedly. The men make an effort to woo the women while at the same time pretending to keep their vow.

"O" (2001)



I have only watched the trailer so far, but this "Othello"-based movie looks very promising. Young people can again relate to the universal themes of love, friendship and betrayal in this movie set in a contemporary private school. O, short for Odin (Mekhi Phifer), is the school's basketball star as well as its only black student. Hugo (Josh Hartnett) is O's best friend who helps him court Desi (Julia Stiles), the dean's daughter. The producers shelved it for two years for fear of being compared to the Columbine massacre. However, O sends an antiviolence message to audiences.

"Much Ado About Nothing" (1993)

One of the better adaptations I have seen, "Much Ado About Nothing" focuses on the relationship of Beatrice (Emma Thompson) and Benedick (Kenneth Branagh). The two trade witty insults throughout the play but discover their love for each other in the end. Denzel Washington, Robert Sean Leonard, Keanu Reeves, Michael Keaton and Kate Beckinsale are the other good reasons to watch this movie.

"Romeo Must Die"

Who would ever imagine a Shakespeare play could turn into a martial arts flick? This edgy "Romeo and Juliet" adaptation features the martial arts talents of Jet Li and marks the acting debut of the late Aaliyah. This version is a fresh take on the two feuding families—the clash is now based on territory, ethnicity and crime. Disgraced Hong Kong cop Han (Li) makes his way to the United States to avenge the death of his brother, who was murdered by allies of a rival family. His thirst for vengeance subsides a bit when he falls in love with Trish (Aaliyah). A well-loved tale with a great cast and soundtrack makes for a great film.

Casting info from hollywood.com

E-mail the author at unicorn@csi.com.ph

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The exhibit will sell the latest books and other educational materials covering almost all areas of discipline—from scientific and technical, medical and allied health, education, criminology, law, general references to children's books as well as Filipiniana materials.

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An annual feature of the book fair are seminars for teachers and librarians. Non-members of Abap are also welcome to participate in the book fair. Call Lydia Wenceslao at 925-4572.

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Monica Felise A. Jara
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Mark Richard P. Dinio
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Portia M. Cadag
Bachelor of Library
and Information Science
UP Diliman

Cecille Cifra
Business Administration
University of Santo Tomas

Leo Paul Pangilinan
B.S. Computer Engineering
Don Bosco Technical College

Troy A.Talavera
Bachelor of Fine Arts,
Major in Industrial Design
University of Santo Tomas

Edison T. Lim
BS Computer Science
De La Salle University

Bianca Consunji
High School
Miriam College

Vera Dela Trinidad
BS Math Major in Computer Science
University of Santo Tomas

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High School
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Abimilech C. Añola
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High School
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Paul Christian Isidro
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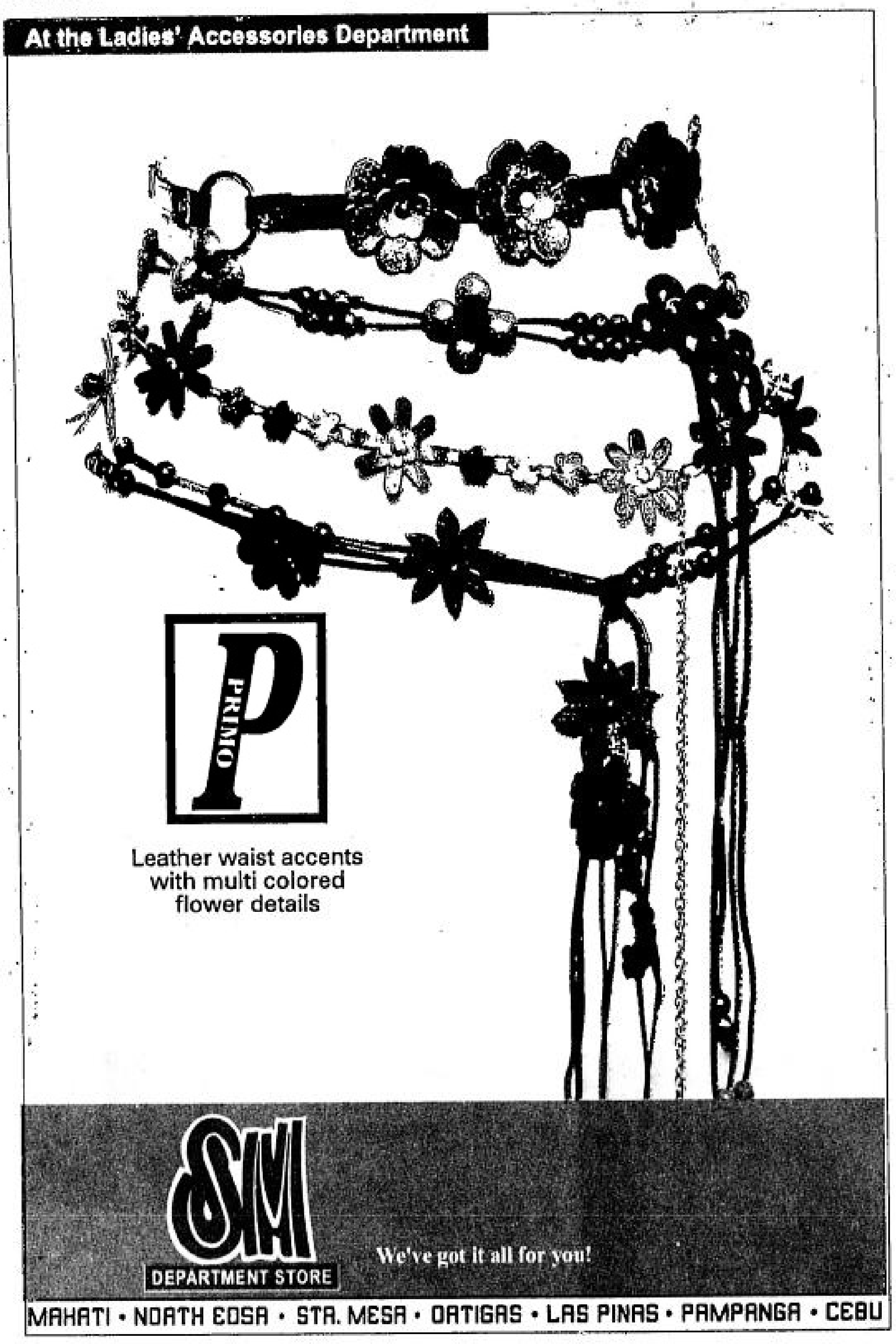
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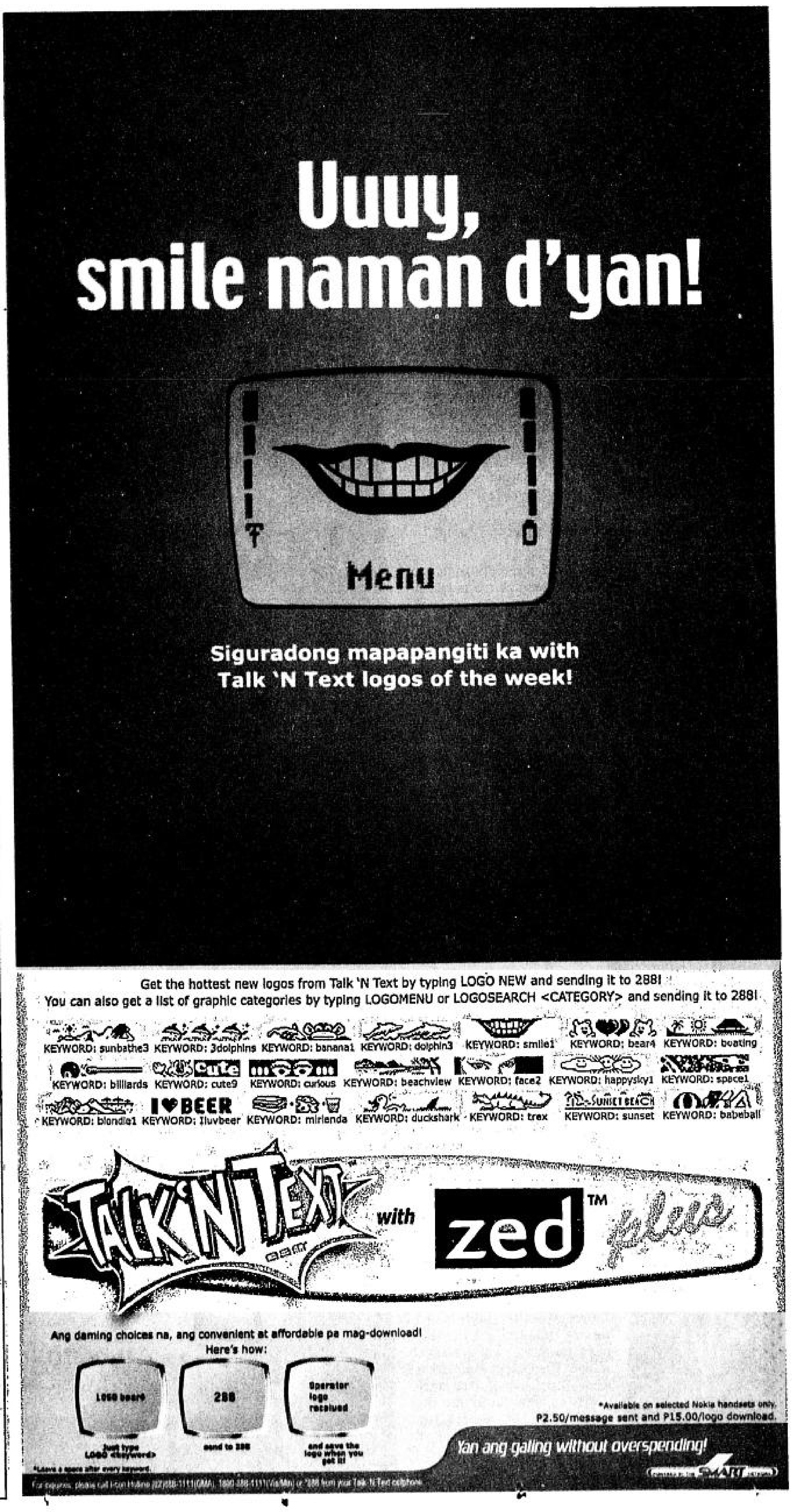
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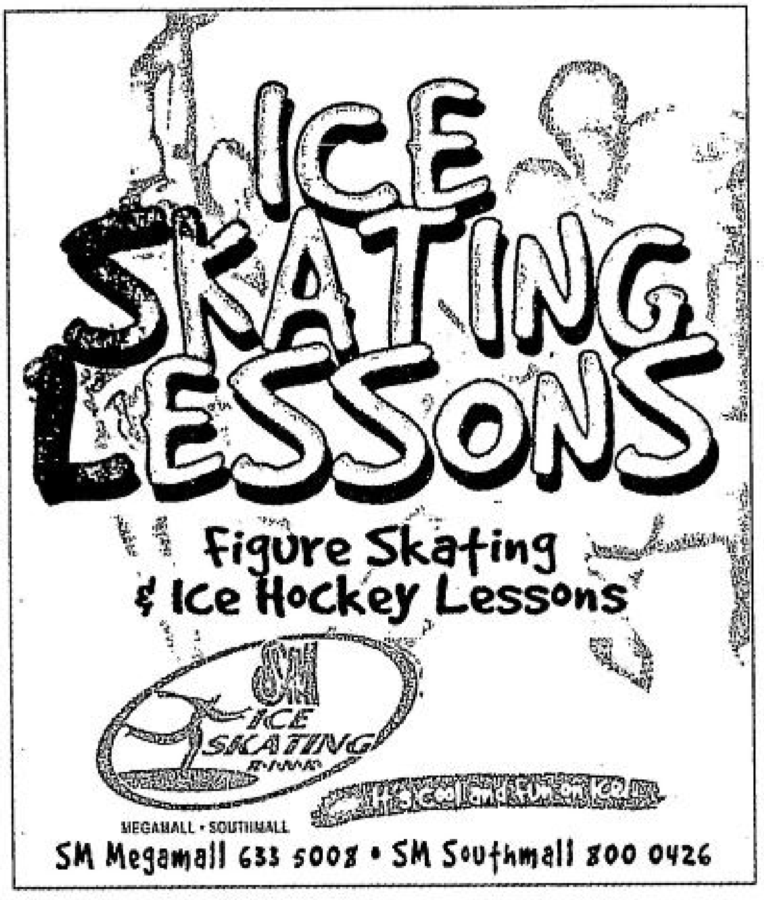
STORY ON PAGE E2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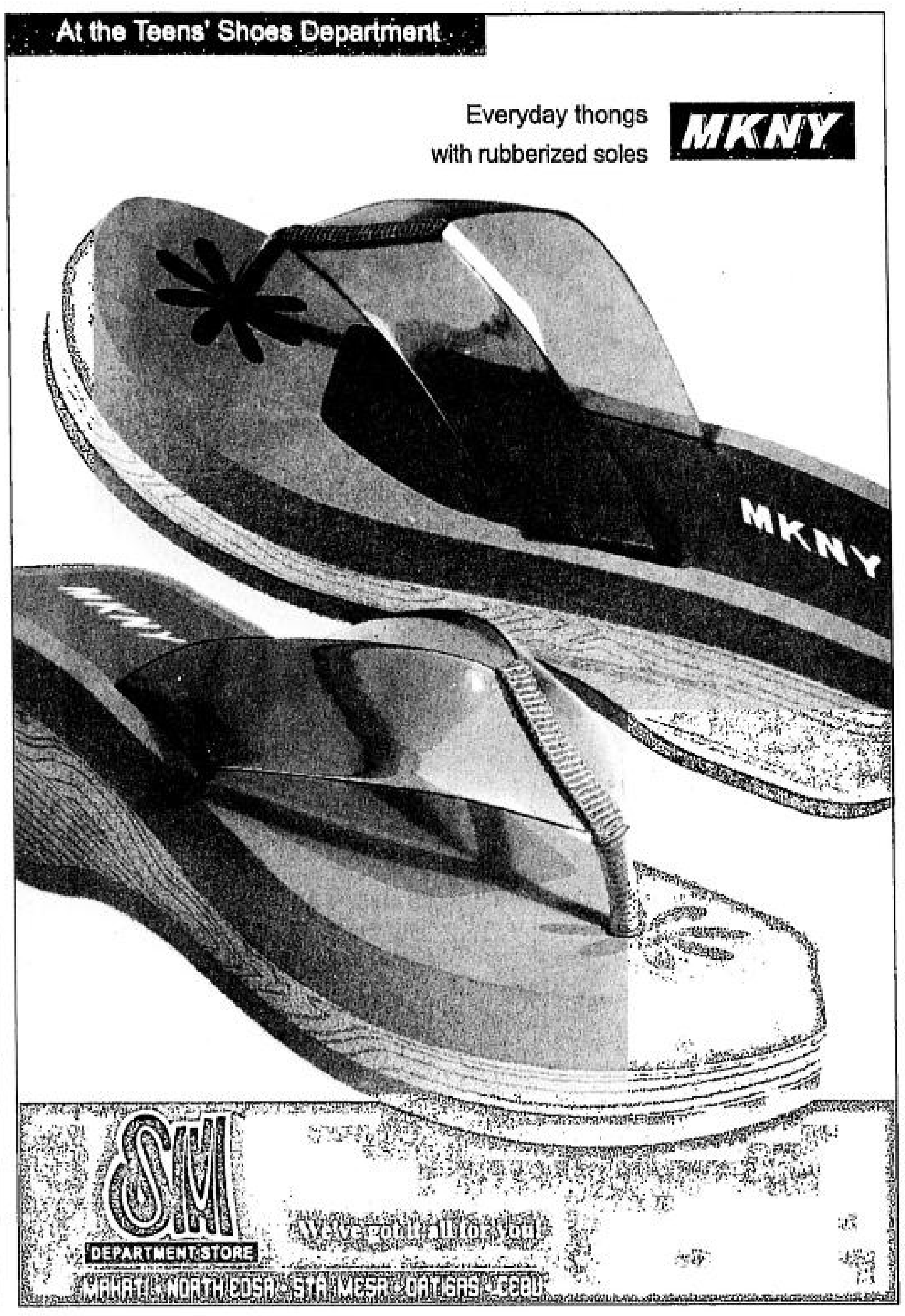
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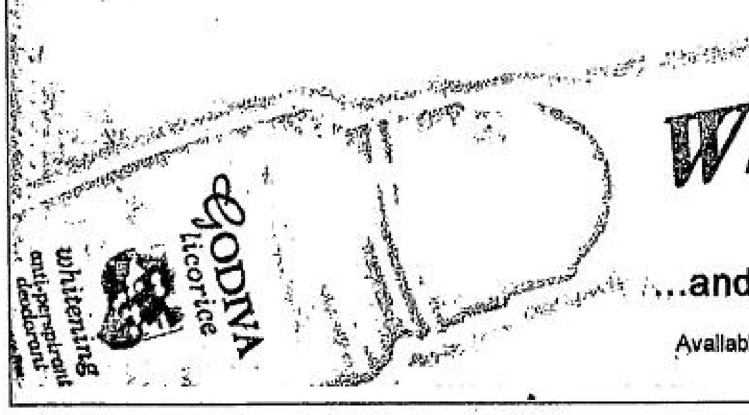

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FUTURE 2bU! readers

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MODELS dancing the Sari-Sari way.

ACCESS. The Glorietta Activity Center was transformed into a cyber haven.

INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto mingles.

By Melissa Anne Lim
and Melissa Anne Telan
Photos by Betoy Johnson

"YOU WANTS YOU!"

The formal launching of INQ7's new baby, YOU (http://you.inq7.net), was quite a party. If you were anywhere near the Glorietta Activity Center that day, you couldn't have possibly missed the video clip that kept on playing. Some of the country's rock stars took turns praising YOU. In the end, they grouped together to yell, "YOU wants you!" at the top of their lungs.

It was a circus. There were small clowns with bulbous noses, 8-ft-tall clowns on unicycles, mimes making balloon poodles, acrobats, and jugglers, who were amazing and funny with their hat act. There were also coloring and drawing contests for the kiddies. Everyone went home a winner. The kids got to keep their artwork in tumblers and TGIFriday's provided them with more than enough food and drinks.

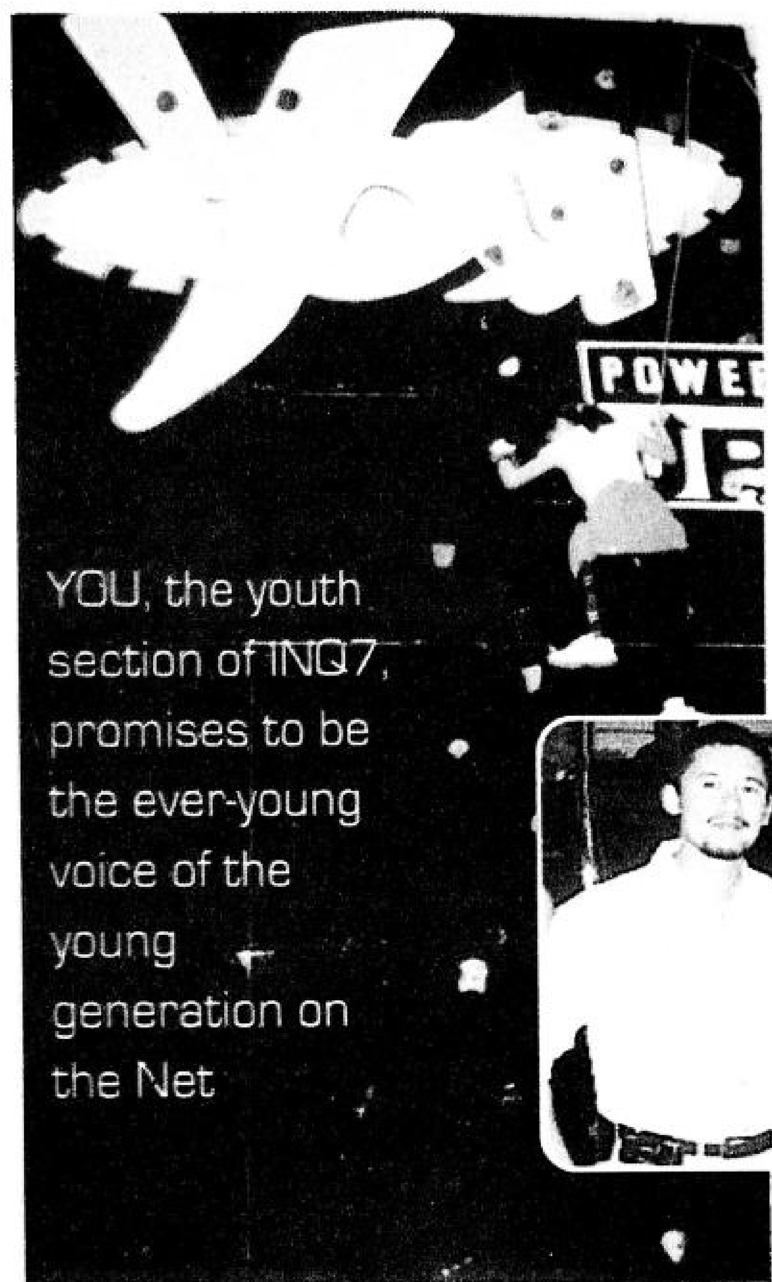
The funniest part was the parlor game. The contestants had to work in pairs with one of them blindfolded and the other giving directions—the blindfolded one had to stick the missing part of Mr. Magloo's nose back on.

E-mazing race

The E-mazing race was a relay game with a twist. There were 11 groups of three people joining the game—seven teams were nominated by their friends/relatives and voted by people through SMS or the YOU website while the other four were from the media. The teams had to go through 12 stations; one consisted of logging on to cyberspace—the YOU website, to be exact—and answering five tough questions (the more wrong answers they give, the more they get delayed).

Another station had the contestants fishing clues out of plates filled with brownies, ice cream and whipped cream using just their faces, and absolutely no hands. Pam won for Team 2bU! She not only finished first, but she finished way ahead of the other contestants who were all male.

The 11 teams were set loose in Glorietta and they did everything from dancing in arcades and walking on planks to climbing walls and solving puzzles. Team Savage—made up of Jason Averia, Manny Batungbakal and Tiff Pagal—won the race. The team got the grand prize of sailing lessons in Taal Lake worth P8,000 each, as well as gift certificates and gift packs from the launch's sponsors. Coming in third—and we are proud of them—was team 2bU! composed of Pam, Jason Doplito and Maui Reyes.



YOU, the youth section of INQ7, promises to be the ever-young voice of the young generation on the Net

DON'T drop those balls!

DENNIS Valdes, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, INQ7's president and CEO Paolo Prieto and Technomarine's Ciara Sevilla

CIRCUS, circus

The deal

Leo Magno, INQ7 vice president and executive editor, made a spectacular entrance from above. He rappelled from the very top of Glorietta's Activity Center à la "Mission Impossible," to be greeted by a model with his leather jacket waiting for him. Both he and Paolo Prieto, INQ7's president and CEO, talked about YOU.

YOU is a community for the interactive youth. It features online versions of the JUNIOR INQUIRER and our very own 2bU! (There is now no reason to miss out on us during Wednesdays.) The cross-campus channel includes news, opinion and feature stories about different campuses in the country.

About 90 percent of YOU's content are user-generated. YOU encourages participation from the youth. Readers can send in their written work (essays, opinion, feature stories, etc.) and get a chance to be published in a website with a global audience. There's a discussion board where you can talk about anything and everything under the sun. The site also has "YOU TXT," an SMS-based feature, where you can text messages in and see them appear online.

Our friends expressed great interest in joining the "Never-Ending Story," another YOU feature where you can write the next chapter of a story and have it continued by other readers.

Movies, music, the latest in gadgets and technology thingamajigs are also covered. To top it all, "Youngblood" is also now online, courtesy of YOU.

The party

The sponsors—such as TechnoSport, Sari-Sari, Scheds.com and Compaq—shelled out a lot to make the launching possible. Freebies were given away. Mel Telan came onstage to answer a simple question about Scheds.com and was rewarded with a dress from Sari-Sari and box of junk food. Soon after, the winners of the Technomarine watches were drawn.

Sari-Sari prepared a fashion show. The clothes were lovely and the models, though obviously new to the business, delivered well. The outfits ranged from summer clothes to Bridget Jones' bunny costume and Lara Croft's ensembles. TGIFriday's once again provided dinner and drinks.

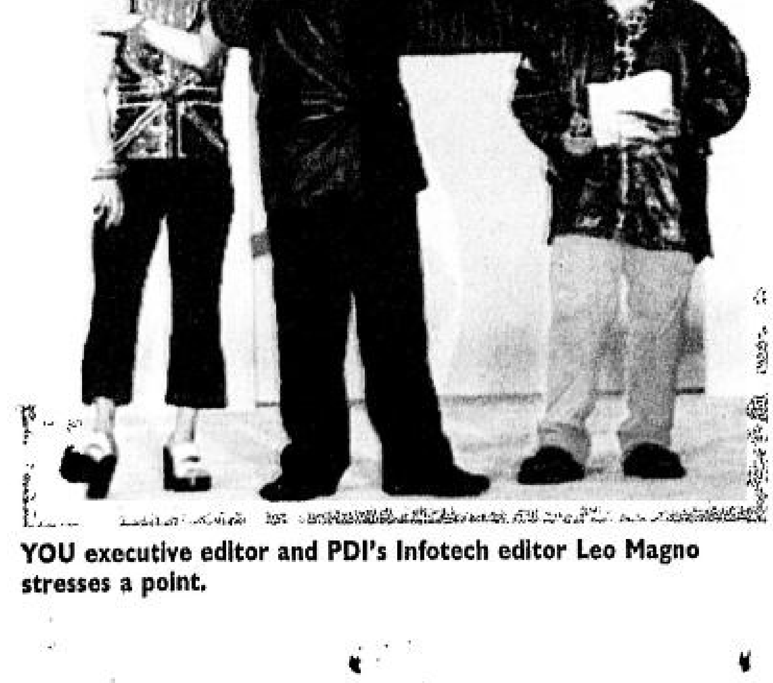
It wouldn't have been complete if it weren't for South Border and Rivermaya's performances.

The score

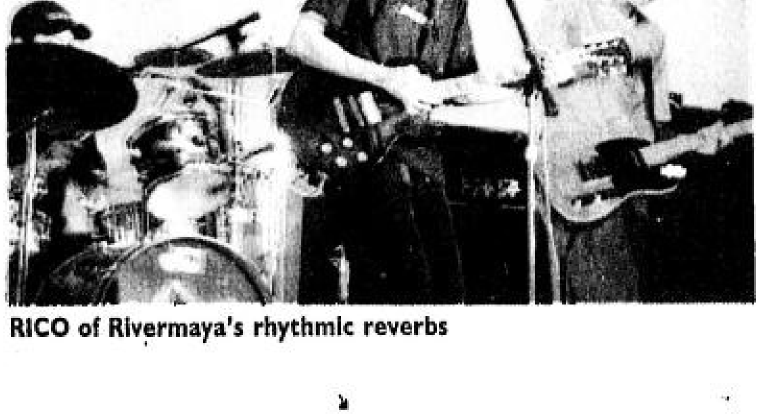
The party was great. The product was great. The site is everything young, by the young and for the young. Most of us are hooked online, but instead of wasting our Internet time on trivial pursuits, we can read about what other people our age think about different issues. Better yet, we can write what's on our mind and share it with the rest of the world.

The program was entertaining. How often do you see a woman wearing a blue wig (Tessa Prieto-Valdes) and a man wearing hot orange pants (Matt Montoya) in malls?

WINNERS all



YOU executive editor and PDI's Infotech editor Leo Magno stresses a point.



RICO of Rivermaya's rhythmic reverbs

SOUTH Border's Luke delivers soulful tunes.

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

How to handle rumors about the object of your affection

Carlos Garchitorena
& September Mahino

To be you! • to be you • to be young

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

What will you do if you found out something bad about your crush and there is no way to confirm because you're not even close to him/her? How do you deal with something that is more than just a simple case of being turned off, when you've already become disillusioned with men/women in general?

DACEY

You just let the disillusionment pass, I guess, and try not to think too pessimistically. If you let the rumors you've heard become the defining label or characteristic of your crush, then you're obviously not being fair to him/her.

There are ways to confirm those rumors, you know. It seems you don't want to know better because you're scared of finding the truth. But whether you'll take actions to find out the truth, please remember that one rumor does not wholly define a person, and one person does not fairly represent the whole male/female population.

Sooner or later you might find someone new who will restore your faith. But, as of now, it will be good not to think too much about your crush and the rumor you have heard. It sounds a bit like being in denial, I know, but that's the best thing I can think of for you to do.

SEP

Back when I actually cared about what people said about the targets of my affection, I would consult the local gossip queen and listen to more juicy facts about "her." I discovered this increased my conversational skills tenfold. Allow me to explain:

When I would hang out with my buds, I would start conversation about this newly acquired red-hot gossip. Guys gossip, too, so at the end of the night I'd have more secrets than a toilet wall on the last day of school.

Armed with the latest on the hatest, I would nonchalantly pick up the girl of my crushance at the hippest bar in town. When I would saddle up beside "her" and confront "her" with the gossip, she would be in tears and proceed to threaten me in unprintable fonts. Not good, you might think? Au contraire!

Thanks to the gossip I gathered while drinking with my friends, I would be able to comfort her and actually lift her spirits by sharing even dirtier dirt. That way, I got the emotions of a girl beleaguered by bad press oozing all over my shoulder, kept the rumor mill running and, possibly, get lucky that night. At the rate I was going, I never ran out of material.

One thing people don't understand about gossip is that it happens for a reason. It opens up those loose lips that inevitably sink ships... and sticks. In cases of stunningly perplexing and contrived gossip, it showcases the imagination of a society. In cases of cute actors rumored to have overdosed on Ecstasy, it betrays the lack of motivation for coming up with good, unconfirmed and fun lies.

Bad gossip is dished out by public personalities and is laid out on good, honest people. Good gossip lives, breathes, flourishes on its own, giving birth to notoriety and later, fame that the insecure crave.

The best gossip is that which you spread about yourself that is totally untrue, with everybody (including you) attesting to its distance from the truth, yet is such good small talk that it turns into an urban legend. And the ultimate ascension to the gods of creation is the personification of gossip unto itself, being stripped of existing identifiability with a particular person. It ceases to be a story about someone, but simply "about that guy with the 10-inch thing that got stopped at the airport because he was hand-carrying too many aerosol cans."

Gossip, like most things, are neither evil nor good, and must be treated with the neutrality that we exercise when we watch local news, which we never believe, and only switch to when we want overstayers to go home. You can read about it in the book I've just been inspired to write, "My Good Old Days."

CALOY

E-mail at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Fashion party brings back glory of the '80s

ARE you always fretting lately about how time has flown so fast and how you miss the good old days when you could still relate to the phrase, "like a virgin"? Well, fret no more.

On April 12, Glorietta Activity Center becomes one big giant time machine as "Classic MTV" and Penshoppe transport you back in time to the good old '80s. Come and experience the glory of the '80s in "Past Forward," a fashion party retrospective of what was in then and what's in now. Go down memory lane and take a peek at what's in store in fashion as MTV and Penshoppe feat the '80s look with its latest collections, featuring the newest batch of MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council.

After the show, which is directed by Joey Espino, the Glorietta time machine will rumble again and you will be transported to the original party place, a true legend of the '80s—Faces Disco. For one night, witness the resurrection of the ultimate party and dance venue of the '80s and '90s at Glorietta.

For those in their late 20s, come and enjoy the music of your younger years and see all those familiar faces. And for the younger set, it will be one big '80s theme party with a chance to win cool prizes for the wackiest '80s costume—and a rare chance to have a glimpse of how it was like back then.

"Past Forward" is presented by "Classic MTV" and Penshoppe. Tickets are available at selected Penshoppe stores.

Cultural event benefits marginalized youth

KINDERHILFE Philippinen. e. V., with the Embassy of Germany, will hold a cultural event featuring traditional music and dance at 7:30 tonight at the RCBC Plaza, Makati City for the benefit of the marginalized children and youth.

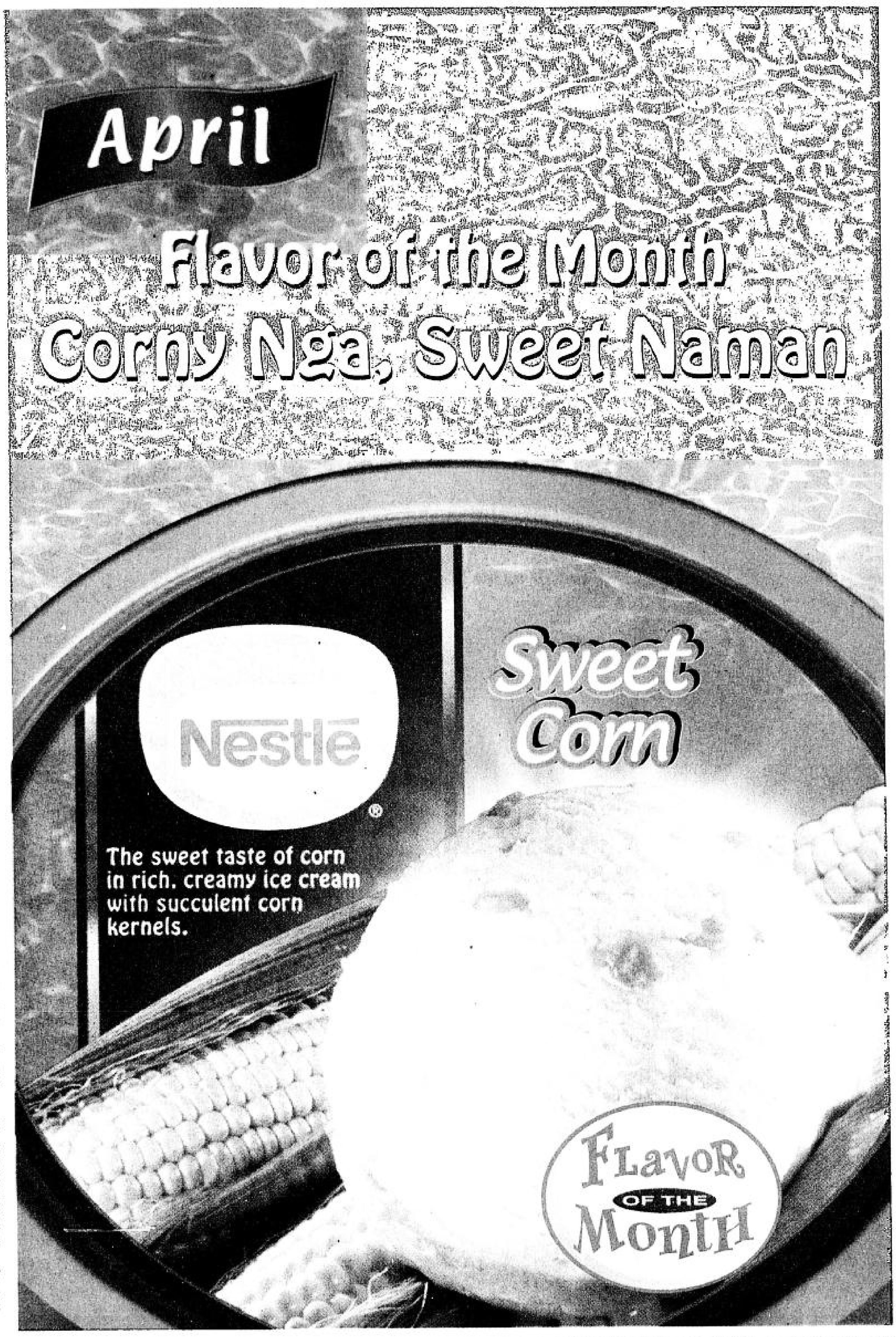
Dubbed "Kaplilang-lilang" (Maguindanaoan term for "entertainment"), the event will bring together four artists well known for indigenous music, dance and performances using *kulintang* and other indigenous musical instruments.

One of the performers is the Maguindanaoan Kulintang Ensemble, headed by Prof. Aga Mayo-Butocan. The ensemble is composed of Maguindanaoan traditional musicians based in Manila. This group is active in performances and lecture workshops on traditional Maguindanaoan music.

Also performing is Hermie Bustos, a Philippine High School for the Arts *kulintang* major who is also a member of the staff of the Philippine Foreign Service. She was posted at the Philippine Embassy in Bonn/Berlin, Germany from 1994-2001. Bustos actively promotes traditional Philippine music in Germany by training young people in bamboo *kulintang*.

The Asian Music Ensemble will also be performing. It is the performing arm of the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music, a leading center for training in church music in Asia with members coming from different Asian countries. The ensemble sings a mix of Western and Asian repertoire, both sacred and secular. It is known for its outstanding performance of contemporary works of Asian composers and folk song arrangements.

The concert will benefit three foundations founded by Fr. Pierre Tritz. Call 564-1856/2608/1859/1774.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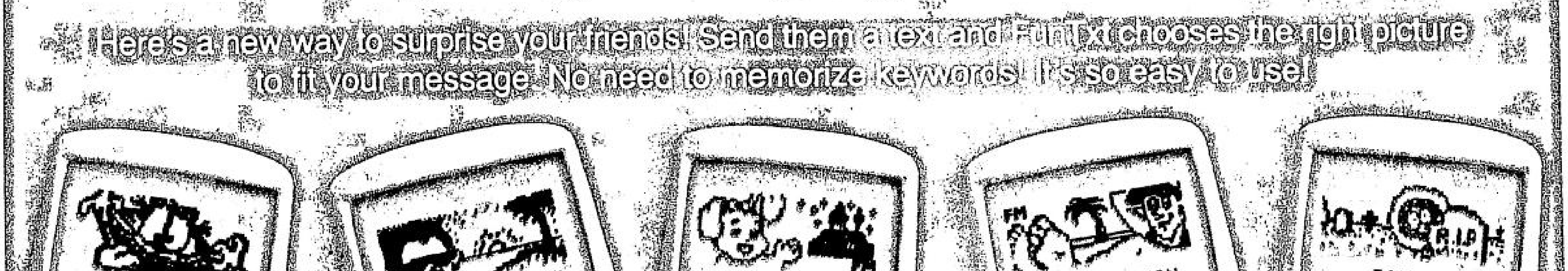

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